

CONNECTED TO THE COLOURS OF HER HEART

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Intuitive Brisbane artist Donna Hawkins opens her exhibition “CONNECTION ...to my heart ...to your heart ...to the earth” on August 19. This is no ordinary exhibition; every piece is a work of inspiration. No boring bowls of fruit here.

Last year Hawkins lost herself in order to find herself. She took a solo road trip through south eastern Australia with her studio in the back of her car. The result is a collection of deeply personal paintings and collages inspired by her cathartic journey and the changes that have transpired since her return.

Like famed Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, Hawkins’ art resonates with her personal cosmology and is shaped by the events and emotions of her life. Her works are symbolic, surreal and filled with fantasy. Her style is captivating and cosmic; she uses vibrant colours with a graphic, illustrative panache.

Painting intuitively from the heart is also how Hawkins teaches her students - often complete novices - to paint personal masterpieces in just one day. Hawkins is a passionate believer that we all have ‘an artist within’ and loves to wake up our dormant creative spirit. “CONNECTION” will also feature student artworks from her renowned transformative art workshop as well as works by international sculptor Marc Barbeau.

In May this year, Hawkins was the official Artist-In-Residence at Brisbane’s annual Caxton Street Seafood and Wine Festival. She motivated the public to help create a spectacular Caxton Street triptych which will also be displayed at the exhibition. The proceeds from the sale of this piece will be donated to the Premier’s Flood Disaster Relief Fund.

Hawkins’ striking visual art also inspired Sunshine Coast filmmakers Peter Enright and Mark Keating to film her over the course of several months. Their “Donna Hawkins’ CONNECTION Exhibition” documentary will be launched at the exhibition opening and run throughout the show. The film chronicles Hawkins’ intuitive painting style plus the inspiration behind several key works.

The attraction of Hawkins’ distinctive art is the universal appeal of something so personal. Her art is an honest reflection of life and how we are all intrinsically connected to it. This is one exhibition not to be missed. Hawkins will be at the gallery throughout to meet you and answer questions about her works.

CONNECTION shows at the **White Canvas Gallery, 26 Church St Fortitude Valley**, from the 19 – 31 August. Details can be found on www.donnahawkins.com.

Check out the exhibition teaser-trailer at <http://www.donnahawkins.com/news.html>

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