

## MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: 5 February 2019

### COORONG GALLERY LAUNCHES HUGE 2019 PROGRAM



*Above: Robyn Stacey's 'Comfort Inn Riviera', SAMHRI, 2016, Adelaide, type C photograph, 110.0 x 146.7 cm (image and sheet); photo courtesy of Robyn Stacey and Darren Knight Gallery.*

The Coorong Gallery is launching its biggest annual program to date – including involvement in SALA, South Australia's History Festival, and partnerships with the State Gallery to deliver an exciting and diverse program.

In 2019 the gallery will present a range of local, touring and emerging artists, having just hosted 'Summer' (a collection from Bridge Arts), with its next exhibition, 'Inside Garden' on show from 8 February 2019.

From what began as just one bricks and mortar gallery, the Coorong District Council's arts and culture program now provides exceptional community outcomes in mental health, wellbeing, social connectedness, learning and professional development. The program now encompasses exhibitions at the Tailem Bend Civic Centre as well as smaller scale exhibitions in Meningie and Tintinara.

Further, the Council's arts team recently undertook a community arts survey and collected exceptional feedback from local residents which will help deliver a range of workshops to more isolated locations across the district.

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Coorong District Council Mayor Paul Simmons said there was increasing engagement across the community with various arts projects underway, and the galleries are also now attracting visitors to the district, which has a positive economic outcome.

“Although the arts is a new area for me, I’ve seen the benefits first hand amongst our local community,” Mayor Simmons says.

“People, especially those living in rural and remote areas are using the Coorong arts program to get to know others in their community and bring colour and life to some of our public spaces. You only need to drive past the giant Coonalpyn mosaic to view an example.

“It’s great to see local artists given the opportunity to share their artworks with the public, allowing them to not only exhibit their creative works, but sell them too.”

The Council’s Arts and Community Development Officer, Susie Ifould hopes the community will take away inspiration and a positive experience from this year’s range of exhibitions.

“I’m pleased to present the public with a diverse program this year” Ms Ifould says.

“We have a great mix of history, Aboriginal art, contemporary art and even our first interpretive community indoor garden.”

“Of particular interest to our local community will be the ‘*Why Tintinara*’ exhibit. In conjunction with South Australia’s History Festival, this will feature a collection of photographs and memorabilia of the town’s significant past.

“The Ngarrindjeri and community print-making ‘*First Impressions*’ will promote some of our best local Aboriginal artists whilst offering printmaking opportunities to our community.

“With more than 40 local artists exhibiting as part of Coorong’s inaugural SALA in 2018, I am excited for our ongoing involvement and the next opportunity to see diverse works from our community artists, giving them the attention they deserve.”

An outline of what’s ahead is below, and the full program can be found at <http://www.coorong.sa.gov.au/cooronggallery>.

**Inside garden: 8 February – 5 April 2019**

This creative indoor garden contrasts the cool of the garden with the heat of the Coorong summer. Visually interpreting our environment, artists have created the coolest venue to immerse yourself in this Summer.

**Why Tintinara? South Australia’s History Festival: 12 April – 7 June 2019**

A collection of memorabilia and photographs which document the 1840 settlement of Tintinara, the impact of the 1852 gold route and the 1886 railway development.

**Ray of Light, Robyn Stacey: 14 June – 26 July 2019**

Robyn Stacey creatively distorts South Australia through camera obscura, an optical device of wonder, whereby the external world is trapped and inverted within the room.

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**SALA 2019: 2 August – 27 September 2019**

The South Australian Living Artists (SALA) Festival is a state-wide festival that promotes the many talented visual artists across South Australia. Coorong District Council will host three venues promoting the region's talented artists. To be involved, please contact our Arts and Community Development Officer Susie Ifould on 1300 785 277 or email [council@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:council@coorong.sa.gov.au).

**First Impressions: 4 October – 29 November 2019**

A cultural exchange between printmaker Jorgi Gardener, Ngarrindjeri and Coorong artists, which explores the region's environment and the fragile existence of coastal life through Ngarrindjeri language and printmaking methodologies.

**My paintings speak for me, Kunyi June Anne McInerney: 6 December 2019 – 7 February 2020**

A thoughtful exhibition chronicling the artist's time spent at the Oodnadatta Mission in the 1950s. Kunyi captures images of loss, struggle and happiness, sharing her story as a member of the stolen generation.

- ENDS -

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