



Margrit Rickenbach

Born: 1949, near Zurich, Switzerland.
Emigrated to Australia in 2001.

Since my early youth I had a strong interest in painting and creating art objects with textile and other various materials. My artistic career started with the apprenticeship as a florist. Several expositions followed in Basel and Zurich, Switzerland. Art as therapeutic expression then became my main focus. With the use of textile projects, handicraft work, my work field extended from drug rehabilitation centres to art-therapy in nursing homes. Since 2002 I have resided in Australia and have opened a paint and textile workshop/studio on the mid north coast of NSW. Together with Claude Teyssier, painter and master mask builder, we have been working on projects ranging from private commission work, gallery exhibitions, public art, community group mentorship, festivals and special events. I work with various mediums including textile work, felting, painting, mask making, large bamboo sculptures and recycled materials.

2011

Exhibition with Koorie Heritage Trust Melbourne. Exhibition with Boomalli Sydney.

2010

Lantern on the River in Lorienton. Walking with the Spirits Beswick NT. Community work with Beyond Empathy in the Nambucca Valley.

2009

Re-located to Bowraville NSW to open an art studio for visual arts, textile and felting. Working as an art therapist/teacher for people with disabilities at Phoenix House

2008

Working with "Bago Magic Theatre Group for people with disabilities - workshopped for the performance India Is. 2 month mask making workshop along side Cluade Teyssier, for the Back to Bowra performance in Bowraville NSW. Art exhibition in Manly NSW.

2007

Bago Magic Theatre Group" -for people with disabilities: preparing the 3rd performance "India Is" Aqua Sculpture workshop- participated with sculpture. Working for the Port Macquarie Hastings Council Waterwise sector,- Platypus Project. Small schools project in the Hastings NSW -China in the Bush, lantern workshop along side Claude Teyssier.

2006

Bago Magic Theatre Group -for people with disabilities: preparing for their 2nd performance Comboyne Floral Show as part of the annual Comboyne Spring Fair: flag project. Bamboo sculpture installation at "Blue Poles Cafe & Gallery Byabarra NSW

2005

September 2004 - Art teacher for Bago Magic Theatre Group

2004

Costume creation for 'Siren's Song' at the 'Play Rites Festival' and Waterweek

2004

Two installations in the grounds of Blue Poles Cafe/Gallery, Byabarra 9 Mantra flags (textile painting) 20 Joy baskets (wind tunnel textile objects)

2003

Confluence', Port Macquarie City of the Arts project Various art projects Community workshop. During this month i worked as a part of a team of artists, with local people to create five totems, which were designed by the local indigenous community Costumes for the 'Central Parade' which was part of the opening ceremony for Aquasculpture 2003 A huge whale Aquasculpture Five giant feather banners for the Aquasculpture competition Go with the Flow', a women's artist exhibition at Blue Poles Gallery, Byabarra, an installation of 15 textile flags.

2003 March -June

Mask making workshop for severely disabled people at ACES, Port Macquarie.

2003

Exhibitor and finalist in the Country Energy Art Prize, New England Art Gallery Armidale.

2001 - 2003

Voluntary work for Siipry Sirkus Creation of masks, costumes and lanterns for the Peace Rally, street theatre in Port Macquarie. Environment Festival, Taree - children's lantern making workshop. This was followed by Creation of the Sea Creatures and parade. Creation of various costumes for general use. Youth Art skills - costume and mask making at a camp at Pappinbarra for 43 at risk' young people.

1996 - 2000

Worked part time in a home for around 75 senior citizens. My role was team leader for a group which used art therapy and motivational techniques to try to improve their quality and enjoyment of life. This included organising art exhibitions of their work, theatre productions, holidays and similar activities. At the same time I continued to practice at ""Diafreo"" working with groups and individuals and continued with my art in my spare time.

1993 - 1996

Practiced Methode Meziere, Jn Shin Jyutsu and Craniasacral Osteopatie at a health centre named ""Diafreo"" in Basel. At the same time I produced textile art and paintings which I exhibited and sold.

1991 - 1992

Studied and gained a diploma in ""Methode Meziere"" (this is a study of body posture and care). I also studied at the same time, 'Jn Shin Jyutsu' (a form of acupressure) and ""Craniasacral Osteopatie"" (a form of osteopathy)

1986 - 1992

Joined a team which set up a home and workshop as part of a drug rehabilitation scheme. Participants were given training in textile work, woodworking and bicycle repair and servicing.

1980 - 1985

Was part of a women's team which established a shop studio to produce and sell art.

1975 - 1979

Involved in setting up a therapeutic home for young people who had become addicted to drugs. Meanwhile I studied Fritz Pearl's Gestalt Therapy and practice this in the home along with art and craft therapy.

1972 - 1974

Studied Social Welfare specialising in the areas of youth and disabilities and gaining a diploma.

1971

Working holiday in England and Israel studying English.

1970

Worked as a florist.

1966 -1969

Studied as a florist for 3 years in Zurich, gaining a diploma.

1965

Worked in a children's home in France to learn French.