

BLOOM exhibition a fresh start for The Courthouse Gallery

The exhibition *BLOOM*, taking place at the Courthouse Gallery 19 July - 20 September 2019 marks the beginning of a new chapter for the Hedland arts community, as local arts not-for-profit The Junction Co. take the reigns of the Courthouse Gallery management.

Seven regional artists, including four artists from the North West, will be showcasing their work in an exhibition that explores the nature of growth and renewal; the blooming of something new.

Local artists Samantha Bell, Richard Brooks and Zabia Chmielewski are excited to be participating in *BLOOM* and have welcomed the challenge of working towards a group show at such short notice.

"This is such a great opportunity to work with local artists Sam and Richard as well as celebrating the next chapter for the Courthouse Gallery with The Junction Co. and curator Elisa Trifunoski. I've had a long connection with the gallery since its inception and am excited to have my artwork in the very first exhibition, even if it's been a challenge to respond and rise to the theme, bloom," said Chmielewski.

The other artists include Melissa Foster, a former Port Hedland resident who now lives in Broome, a Mandurah based painter Tahnee Kelland and South West based artists Meleah Farrell and Phoebe Duff.

Curator Elisa Trifunoski has worked closely with The Junction Co. to create a show that extends beyond the gallery walls and is symbolic of the change that the new management will bring to the community.

"The representation of flora is central to the *BLOOM* exhibition, but don't expect a gallery filled with paintings of flowers. *BLOOM* is about exploring newfound freedom to open and unravel and most importantly, to stretch beyond what was before. This is what each of the artists will reveal through their work," says Elisa.

The Junction Co. Executive Officer Katie Evans is excited to see the team's vision to fruition.

"At the start of the year, we formalised our governance, including our vision for the Pilbara creative industries. Our mission is to advocate and connect regional creatives with workspace, learning opportunities and networks, to uplift their endeavours and create an environment which both local community and creatives can support each other."

"All are welcome to opening night, and experience Hedland's own Gallery and newly refurbished Studio."

BLOOM opens at 6pm Friday 19 July at the Courthouse Gallery, 16 Edgar St, Port Hedland.