

Media release

27 June 2024

The Dance of Colours

WHAT: Opportunity to preview and celebrate the first exhibition of Ukrainian folk art, Samchykivka in Australia by artist and Ukrainian refugee, Anna Mykhalchuk, prior to the official opening at 5:30pm

WHO:

- Artist and Ukrainian refugee, Anna Mykhalchuk
- His Excellency the Ambassador of Ukraine to Australia and New Zealand, Vasyl Myroshnychenko
- Minister for Small Business and Consumer Affairs, Minister for Corrections and Rehabilitation, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence, Madeleine Ogilvie MP
- Mayor of Glenorchy City Council, Alderman Sue Hickey

WHEN: 4.30 pm, Thursday 27 June 2024

WHERE: Moonah Arts Centre, 23-27 Albert Road, Moonah

Available for interview:

- Mayor of Glenorchy City Council, Alderman Sue Hickey
- Artist and Ukrainian refugee, Anna Mykhalchuk

The Moonah Arts Centre will be previewing and celebrating the opening of the first Ukrainian folk-art exhibition in Australia, The Dance of Colours by artist and Ukrainian refugee, Anna Mykhalchuk who has been living in Tasmania since 2022.

This exhibition represents the first time the artistic practice of Samchykivka has ever been shared in Australia.

During the public opening, there will be an official presentation by His Excellency the Ambassador of Ukraine to Australian and New Zealand, Vasyl Myroshnychenko of a World Record Certificate for “First Australian exhibition, dedicated entirely to decorative Ukrainian folk art: Samchykivka art”.

“This is an important cultural initiative that introduces regional Ukrainian traditions and heritage, while establishing and strengthening the art connection between Australia and Ukraine,” said His Excellency.

Minister for the Arts, Madeleine Ogilvie, said it was fantastic to be able to support emerging artists from diverse backgrounds such as Anna to develop and create new work. Anna's exhibition was part of Moonah Arts Centre's Diverse Arts Booster, supported through the New Work for New Markets initiative.

"The Tasmanian Government's 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future includes an additional \$1.5 million for arts organisations to continue our vibrant industry, after a previous \$1 million for initiatives including the New Work for New Markets grant initiative in 2022," said Minister Ogilvie.

"Providing emerging artists from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds with support to help them further their arts practice is critical and strengthens our state's already culturally rich arts community."

The Diverse Arts Booster program offered a series of masterclasses and mentorship opportunities, as well as access to rehearsal/studio space, and intended to identify and overcome barriers faced by emerging creatives from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to be successful as professional artists in Tasmania.

"Participating in the program has had a significant impact on my artistic journey. Meeting with experts, consultations with a personal mentor and completing creative assignments opened new artistic heights for me," said Anna.

"I became convinced that my dream of organising a solo exhibition of Ukrainian painting in Tasmania was realistic and achievable, and I began to make it happen."

The *Dance of Colours* invites you to appreciate the interconnectedness and beauty of all things. Through movement, colour, and cultural fusion, Anna shares her cultural traditions while simultaneously experimenting with its boundless possibilities.

"The pieces in this exhibition interweave Ukrainian and Australian cultural motifs, always from a personal perspective, capturing the essence of both my homeland and my new home in Tasmania," Anna said

Glenorchy Mayor, Sue Hickey, said Council is proud to support emerging and established artists and that she is looking forward to viewing the exhibition.

"It's an incredible opportunity to see a world-first art exhibition, right here at the Moonah Arts Centre," said Mayor Hickey.

"Glenorchy is rich in its cultural diversity with many different cultural groups calling this city home, and it's fantastic that Council can continue to support and celebrate multicultural communities and activities like this."

ENDS

Media contact: Katya-Rose Brownjohn-Moss | Senior Communications Officer | 0494 055 432