

## Macs Artist Profile

## Robyn Woodward

Painting for Robyn has been a passion which has lasted her entire life. She began painting in oil at the age of 8 under the tuition of a well known artist at the time, Raymond DeCusak. After leaving school she began a career in architectural drafting, but many years later she made a decision to study Fine Art at Penrith TAFE and later at UWS Nepean. In 1993 after 6 years full time study she began a new career as a professional artist, opening a studio in Penrith. She worked mostly as a muralist, painting Trompe L'oeil, which are large life size paintings usually on walls involving perspective, and creating a realistic 3 dimensional optical illusion for many businesses such as restaurants, book shops, cafes etc. as well as corporations like The Starlight Foundation, Integral Energy, Tulloch Lodge and The Uniting Church. She also did commissions in many private homes which took her from Hamilton Island Q'ld and throughout NSW. Robyn says "It was hard work but also a lot of fun, having the chance also of meeting a lot of well known and interesting people".

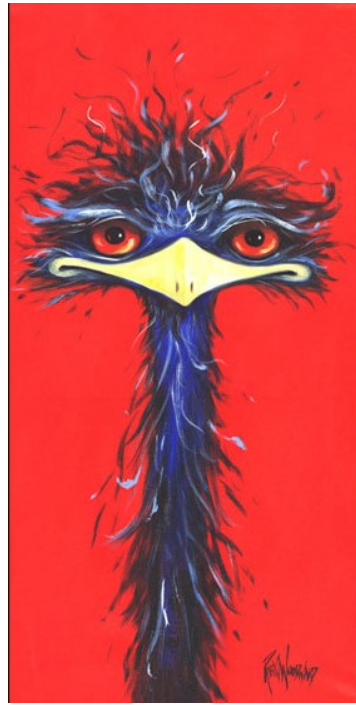


After 10 years of constant mural work involving ladders and scaffolding she made the decision to open her first gallery at Blaxland in The Blue Mountains and just concentrate on painting on canvas not walls. She says "By now I had established a profile in the



mountains, and the gallery was a success. A couple of years later I opened a bigger gallery in Ross St. Glenbrook, which was more of a tourist hot spot". This gallery not only exhibited Robyn's paintings but also the work of other local artists. She conducted many solo exhibitions in this gallery for emerging artists.

She says "I closed this gallery a few years later when my husband Peter retired and we moved to Queensland, but it wasn't long before I opened a new gallery in Buderim on The Sunshine Coast". Unfortunately though Queensland was not the ideal place for their retirement as it was too far from their family, and so they moved again, but this time south.



Robyn has been involved in many exhibitions both group and solo, but her most controversial and publicised solo exhibition was held at The Downing Centre Sydney in 1999 titled “Why” and officially opened by the then, High Court Judge of Australia, The Hon. Justice Michael Kirby. This exhibition of 6 large paintings, the largest being 6 metres long, endeavoured to highlight the despair of the downtrodden and abused, also the never ending quest for power and dominance which had occurred throughout the world during the first 5 decades of my life”.

Although her work is mostly realistic, she likes to push realism by experimenting with not only subject matter but also medium. Her philosophy for her art is to enjoy the process or journey of each painting, and the end result will take care of itself”.

