

BETH HARCOURT

Beth Harcourt has been teaching for more than twenty years. She believes that, other than parenting, teaching is her most important work. She has been lucky to have been in situations throughout her career that have enabled her to expand and extend both her students and her teaching repertoire. As a graduate, she was posted to a school where team-teaching, cooperative learning and programming were the norm. Since then the pathway of teaching postings have led her to cooperative planning across studio areas and The Arts, alternative delivery methods using multimedia and other technologies, the inclusion of students with disabilities in regular programs, school re-structuring to the development of a Senior Campus model for WA, and applying social constructivist teaching and learning to a high school gifted and talented course. All these opportunities have been made available through mainstream schooling.

Beth has taught in country and metropolitan situations, to special needs students, students at academic risk through to Gifted and Talented students, in years 5 to 12. An exchange teaching year in Japan brought to her understanding an international perspective. While her main love is in studio ceramics, the breadth of requirements needed in teaching means her studio experience is broad.

Her own art practice has been 'on hold' for a few years, as she grows her family of two young girls, her greatest creations. Beth has participated in group exhibitions in metropolitan and country situations (and in Japan) but the bulk of her work has been shown in solo exhibitions outside the formal gallery frame, where she has sold with great success. The work itself has moved from 3D forms placed on a table into picture frames, where three-dimensional qualities are developed and the boundaries of possibilities are pushed. Her favourite medium is paperclay that is smoke-fired and painted. She won the Argyle Diamond award acquisitive prize in 1997.

Beth is currently writing curriculum resources for the Dept of Education and Training through WestOne Services, West Perth.

LYNDA KUNTYJ

Lynda Kuntj graduated from the University of Western Australia with a major in Fine Art History and Theory and minor in Psychology. The following year, she completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Secondary Education, receiving the honorary medallion and Pat Duffy Award for excellence in art teaching.

Lynda has broad teaching experience. Her first teaching post was to Girrawheen Senior High School, then Newman, where she took up the position of President of the Newman Arts Council, a non-profit organisation promoting community arts. Lynda continued her teaching in Narrogin and was later appointed District Consultant for Curriculum K-12. She has also taught internationally in Vietnam through the Access Asia cultural fellowship program.

As a practising artist passionate about Visual Arts, Lynda has developed skills in a wide range of fields, from glass fusing to sculptural furniture design. She is an accomplished print maker, and her art works have received numerous awards and commendations, including the Agricultural Award for her unique response to rural Australia. Lynda's large scale lino cuts integrate screen printing, collage and hand painted trademark signature of closely observed objects. Her exhibition awarded print 'Prime View' featured as the cover for the 2002 Margaret River Business Directory, and was subsequently selected and curated by The Art Gallery of Western Australia, Boundless exhibition show casing the contemporary art practice of regional Western Australian artists.

Selected world finalist in the 2004 Montana World of Wearable Art -Illumination Illusion(r) her work 'Flurorelian' was made from materials which glowed in the dark when lit by ultra violet stage light. Exhibited in a live theatrical catwalk performance, the work remains in the World of WearableArt™ and Classic Cars Museum, Nelson collection.

Educator, consultant, curriculum writer, teacher and artist, currently Lynda Kuntj is the project officer for the Visual Art course at the Curriculum Council.