University expands creative program in Tasmania’s City of Makers

The University of Tasmania is proud to introduce the latest wave of local creators to join its Makers’ Program at Burnie’s Makers’ Workshop.

Revealed ahead of the city’s first cruise ship arrival for the 2017/2018 season, six new artisans will join the existing 24 members, to welcome visitors to the iconic site while sharing insight into their creative practices.

Cradle Coast campus Arts and Public Programs Coordinator Joanna Gair said the Makers’ Program was an exciting, entrepreneurial opportunity for Tasmanian artists and crafts practitioners to showcase their wares to thousands of visitors each year.

“The Makers Program is a universally rare enterprise where visitors enjoy meeting local artisans, chat about what they’re doing, watch them work and purchase their products,” Ms Gair said.

“Tourism in Tasmania’s North-West has shown consistent growth in recent years, and is particularly evident in our cruise ship visitation this year.

“Many of our visitors are repeat customers, so recruiting new Makers ensures that the Program remains vibrant and that our 130,000+ visitors each year have fresh experiences and reasons to return.”

The newest Makers’ recruits are Jan Souter (watercolourist), Rasa Dunlop (weaver), Sally Ridgeway (felt and accessory maker), Sue Holm (visual artist), Aurore McLeod (illustrator and toy maker), and Kerry Lamb, the soapmaker behind brand thief_colony.

Also a local art teacher, Kerry began crafting soap from natural ingredients five years ago after developing a health sensitivity to man-made fragrance products.

“My brand thief_colony draws on Tasmania’s history while integrating humour into the presentation and packaging. The soap itself is made from 100% Tasmanian-owned ingredients, 80% of which is grown on Tasmanian farms,” Ms Lamb said.
“Wherever possible, I use ingredients that would only be discarded by local producers. This includes brewery excess, tallow from grass-fed cattle on family farms, and canola and olive oil which I source directly from growers and pressing sheds.

“I’ve always been in awe of the Makers’ Workshop and its picturesque views over Bass Strait, so it is exciting to now be part of this program which allows me to showcase my work and engage with other like-minded creators,” Ms Lamb said.

Since assuming management of the Makers Program in 2015, the University of Tasmania has continued to develop the enterprise program and enhance the commercial opportunities it provides participants.

This includes an annual End of Year Exhibition, designed to challenge the Makers to produce new, commercially desirable products, extend their skill base and work collaboratively.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

New Maker Kerry Lamb will be present at the Makers’ Workshop TOMORROW Wednesday, 11 October to welcome just under 3000 passengers and crew disembarking from the Sun Princess, the first cruise ship arrival in Burnie for the 2017/2018 season.

To arrange photo/interview opportunities contact: Shantelle Rodman 0428 197 878

Information released by:
University of Tasmania, Communications and Media Office
Phone: 61 3 6430 4966
Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au