

# Saturday 29 March

## Denise Lithgow

### - 3D Sculptural Felt Vessels

Once I was introduced to felt I was captivated by its tactile qualities, rich range of colours and the magical meshing of fibres which can be manipulated into forms and shapes to create wearable art, sculptures and two dimensional textile paintings. My association with wool begun when growing up on a merino sheep property in South Australia where I was introduced to various activities such as spinning, knitting, dyeing wool and tapestry by my mother and aunts who were skilled in these handy crafts. These skills I have now developed in my Leichhardt studio. After studying Fashion Design at East Sydney and TAFE College which gave me a basis in colour and design I have since then participated in many different workshops including free machine embroidery, stitching, and felting, over the years.



My works have been exhibited in approximately 140 group exhibitions throughout Australia and Internationally, including the Netherlands, France, UK, Canada and USA. I have won many prizes with both my 3D sculptures and 2D wall works.

I keep journals of my drawings on many different subjects; often these are natural entities such as

leaves, feathers or landscape, which I then incorporate into my art works. The excitement of using these references in my 2D free machine embroidery works which are produced using intuitive layering of fibre and fabrics and are quite often expressed in abstract form with some representational imagery. This comes from an emotional response to places I have seen that enrich my life. My inspiration for all my work comes directly from the landscape.

The sculptural felt vessels are handmade, wet felted, employing very simplistic lines. Vessels such as vases and bowls are both ancient and familiar “everyday” forms. I regard my vessels as “art” because they lack any utilitarian function. I create them because I enjoy them visually and at the same time know that they are a part of a long history of development.

