

'Oper-Arte' 2011 Art Exhibition & Auction

Media Release

featuring

Helen Norton



Auction Artwork Broome Opera oil on canvas 61x30cm

Official Opening Thursday 25th August
Broome Convention Centre Chinatown
12 Frederick Street, Broome
6:30-8:00pm

Auction of Helen Norton Original is at 7:00pm

Exhibition open from
Friday 26th – Wednesday 31st August
Broome Convention Centre Chinatown
Or by appointment 0418 921648

An initiative of

OPERA UNDER THE STARS®

Helen Norton

Helen Norton left home at sixteen to spend the next ten years working and living in the most remote desert locations in Australia. Not intending on becoming an artist, her ambitions focused on immersing herself in as much adventure as was possible to extract from life. She met her husband to be in the North West, and this led to a reluctant putting down of roots for a while in Broome. However the frustration of being stuck in Broome, led to her picking up the paintbrush to create a continuing invention of adventures on the canvas.

Norton continued her travels throughout the Kimberley, Pilbara and overseas. She used the experiences to inject her artwork with more complex layers of narrative. Her work gained acclaim quickly, and led to commissions from Qantas to paint two front covers for their in-flight magazines, an exhibition on the QE2, and exhibitions in London as well as successful exhibitions in Melbourne and Sydney. She currently lives in Perth with her two teenage sons.

Narration is the backbone of Helen Norton's work. Her art thrives on a theme – whether it is the ancient story of Gilgamesh – a Sumerian king from five thousand years ago, an aboriginal queen of the Australian desert or an imaginative portrayal of living in a city today; her intent is on capturing, communicating and exploring the narrative through bold, imaginative paintings.

She loves the tools of illusion, of being part of the scene and surrounding the viewer with an imagined reality – a 'what if' proposal. She uses the past as a mirror on to the present, not simply as a personal interpretation of the past to invite reflection.

Her use of colour, scale and composition emphasize the narrative context and give a sense of the materiality – and poignancy – to the physical world.

Norton uses the genre on a grand scale, presenting the viewer with life as if it is a monumental event, while paying equal attention to identifying the smallest parts of our existence. Her narrative paintings expose our current choices and cultural contributions.

Since the earliest paintings and etchings in rock, people have loved to tell stories. Helen Norton is without a doubt a consummate master of contemporary narrative art in Australia.

Enquiries to www.helennorton.com.au

'Oper-Arte' 2011 Auction

As part of the 'Oper-Arte' initiative Helen Norton's exhibition will incorporate the auction of an original artwork kindly donated by the Artist.

The 'Oper-Arte' Auction artwork can be viewed at the following link: http://www.operaunderthestars.com.au/opera/Home-OperArte_Art_Exhibition_Auction.htm

You are warmly invited to attend the Official Opening of the 'Oper-Arte' 2011 Art Exhibition & Auction featuring Helen Norton to be held on Thursday 25th August from 6:30-8:00pm at the Broome Convention Centre Chinatown, 12 Frederick Street, Chinatown.
Auction time: 7:00pm.

What is "Oper-Arte"?

'Oper-Arte' is an initiative of OPERA UNDER THE STARS[®] designed to provide a forum for the intermingling of the worlds of Opera and Visual Art.

Each year, to coincide with OPERA UNDER THE STARS[®], a Visual Artist is invited to present an exhibition of new works with OPERA UNDER THE STARS[®] and experiences in Broome as its broad theme.

Integral to each 'Oper-Arte' is the auction of an original artwork, kindly donated by the Artist, with the total proceeds being utilised to increase access to musical instruments / materials for the children of the West Kimberley.

Since 2004, the success of 'Oper-Arte' has seen more than \$47,000.00 in musical instruments / materials provided for the children via the 6 schools of Broome plus the 3 schools of the Dampier Peninsula, Djarinjin-Lombardina, Beagle Bay and One Arm Point, North of Broome, as well as La Grange Remote Community School at Bidyadanga, South of Broome.

'Oper-Arte' is *the art exhibition with a difference that makes a difference* as, not only does it provide a unique opportunity for the intermingling of the worlds of Opera and Visual Art, 'Oper-Arte' is also making a singular difference in nurturing the musical lives and talents and of the children of the West Kimberley, the musicians of the future.

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Visit: www.operaunderthestars.com.au