

Inflorescence 1-6
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ARTISANS IN THE GARDENS

~ 2014 ~

THIS YEAR'S *ARTISANS IN THE GARDENS* EXHIBITION PROMISES TO BE AS SPECTACULAR AND INTERESTING AS EVER, WITH NEW AND RETURNING ARTISTS SHOWING WONDERFULLY DIVERSE WORKS. SUE WANNAN UNCOVERS THE NEW, THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL WORKS ON SHOW.

A preview of this year's *Artisans in the Gardens* shows an abundance of rich delights – delicate etched porcelain, marvellous leaf rings, quirky wooden bird boxes, bold jewellery, glass, tapestry, jaw-dropping sculptures, Japanese indigo-influenced textiles, and homewares that are practical enough to use and good enough to show off. And just enough “Oh-my-goodness!” pieces to add spice to sharpen the whole experience.

There are 50 artists showing in this year's *Artisans*. Curator Julieanne Mills and her team aim to have something

for everyone, from those unique bird houses made by an elderly gentleman in Tasmania to serious works from established sculptors that would be a focal point for a courtyard or office.

There are wonderful new artists such as Thor Beowulf, whose sculptures incorporate a living bonsai, and some favourites returning. Remember those delightful metal fish from the kids at Braidwood Central School? This year they've done birds that are funky and utterly charming. These are kids who may not always find life easy but who have

been lucky enough to come under the influence of two outstanding teachers.

Another stand-out artist from last year – Steve Croquett with his bright red waratahs – presents flower and thistle garden sculptures this year, made from recycled gas bottles, exhaust pipes, plough points and horseshoes.

Also look out for Lyn Balzer and Tony Perkins' retro jewellery of woven kangaroo leather and semi-precious stones, Geoff Harvey's K9 dog sculptures, silk scarves from Sarah Howell, and Denise McDonald's vintage flannel flower ceramics.