

MEDIA RELEASE
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ROSALIE GASCOIGNE MEMORIAL AWARD
CAPO Award launches new work

The Rosalie Gascoigne Memorial Award was established by the Capital Arts Patrons' Organisation in 2000, first awarded to artist and writer Ann Brennen. It is sponsored by the Community CPS Credit Union. In the spirit of the great Australian artist, Canberra resident and CAPO Supporter Rosalie Gascoigne (1917–1999), this award supports the creation of new work by artists in any field. The award is open to practising artists in Canberra and the region only.

In 2010, Joy McDonald was awarded the Rosalie Gascoigne Memorial award to assist her with the production of an exhibition and puppet performance piece about migration titled *The (Very) Sad Fish-Lady*, as part of the Canberra Centenary Celebrations in 2013.

In the late 1960s, Joy (Eftihia) McDonald decided to leave behind her teaching career to pursue a life in the performing arts as an actor and puppeteer in Sydney. During this time and ensuing years, she took time out to study Fine Arts at Sydney University before moving to Adelaide and then the north NSW coast some years later.

"My interests in ceramics and painting grew. I studied at TAFE and began exhibiting between puppet shows and teaching. This encouraged me to further my interest in the visual arts and I moved to the ACT to study at the Australian National University, graduating in 1997", said Joy.

"This project is morphing into a much larger project than I anticipated and the interest keeps growing," she told CAPO. *"I appreciate the support of the arts patrons who have helped me launch this new work."*

"Currently I am working with dramaturg Richard Bradshaw in the development of a script. The design of the production depends on the script. I have been researching different designs for the stage, sets and technical aspects such as project technology and the materials that will be most suitable for the sets."

"The Street Theatre wants to stage the show in September 2013 during the school holidays and has kindly offered a designer and a technician. I am very excited about this and have applied for funding from other sources to employ personnel, puppeteers, and a rehearsal space."

Neil Doody, CAPO President, said *"It is exciting to see an artist create new work. CAPO is looking forward to seeing this project take to the stage in Canberra, showcasing Joy's interests and creative skills in the visual and performing arts"*.

Who will be awarded the Rosalie Gascoigne Memorial Award in 2011? This award and nine others will be announced at CAPO 28 on 26 November 2011 at the National Archives of Australia.

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