



# ABOUT TURN: A Quiet Interrupted Art Life

A survey of works by Peggy Lyon

Curated by Sue Starcken and Catherine Swioklo | MUNDARING ARTS CENTRE | 20 Oct – 19 Nov 2017

Join Mundaring Arts Centre as we celebrate over 35 years of arts practice by dedicated artist, environmentalist, teacher and volunteer Peggy Lyon (1945-2017). Through her unflinching curiosity and an indefatigable spirit of enquiry for materials and techniques, Peggy quietly built up a stunning range of works, many of which are held in private and public collections. Never previously shown as an autonomous body of work, Mundaring Arts Centre is proud to present this survey of Peggy's work, on show from Saturday 21 October to Sunday 19 November 2017.

*This work is about the possibility of connection to place and belonging. It is not at all interested in an heroic or monumental approach to the human in the landscape rather, it alludes to the local, potentially intimate associations that help to form identity and a sense of belonging somewhere.*

Peggy Lyon, extract from Artists Statement for 'Boy', 2013

Peggy's works talk as much about her life as they do the underlying stimulus for her art. An energetic and passionate practitioner, Peggy consistently explored new ideas and new media. She embodied the spirit of community art by pushing conceptual boundaries, communicating ideas and instigating dialogue around contemporary cultural, political and environmental concerns.

Of her childhood, Peggy remembered it as quiet and unhurried, "...I am left with the impression that there was plenty of time to do whatever I wanted." As far back as she could remember her mother was always drawing, and so was she. Always relishing the opportunity to absorb whatever knowledge came her way, her love of learning and passing on of skills led Peggy to become an educator. At age 34 Peggy enrolled in a Graduate Diploma of Art Education and later completed a thesis, "The Meaning of Craft in Contemporary Society". She went on to work as the Art Specialist at Falls Road and Mount Helena Primary Schools, whilst studying printmaking and ceramics part-time at Central TAFE.

In 2000, Peggy joined the West Australian Fibre and Textiles Association (WAFTA), where she was able to fully realize her love of cloth and conversation, using every unconventional textile method to create her vision. This experimentation led Peg, at age 57, to immerse herself in Arts study through Swan TAFE (now North East Metropolitan TAFE), completing her Advanced Diploma in Environmental Art and Design.

*"On and off for much of my life I had been studying, teaching or practicing art and really never quite thought I had a grasp of what it was, but over time during this (Swan TAFE) course... I felt I was beginning to understand what art might be... that curious mixture of the personal and cultural at a particular moment in time."*

During this time, Peggy regularly exhibited her work in significant group exhibitions and undertook community projects, becoming an indispensable member of the Mundaring Arts Centre. Best known for her drawings and textile works, her artworks are proudly hanging in the Shire of Mundaring Art Collection and private collections around the world.

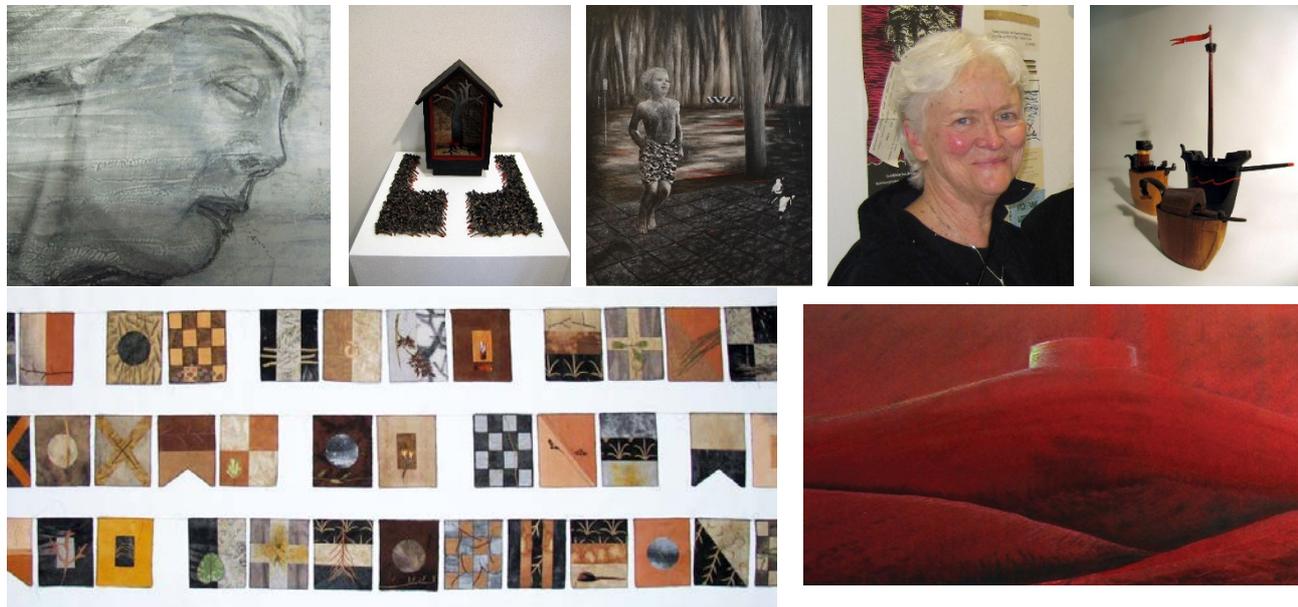
Peggy Lyon was an artist of exceptional conceptual and technical talent. Her works utilize a diversity of mediums and talk about our connections to place, family and belonging; her love of the Perth Hills and her concern and affinity for the natural environment. An artist of enormous sensibility, Peggy was an extraordinary supporter of the arts, as a teacher, curator and someone who was always willing to share her skills with her community.

To support *ABOUT TURN: A Quiet Interrupted Art Life*, artists Denise Brown, Peter Dailey, Stuart Elliott, Bev Iles, David Small, Sue Starcken, Catherine Swioklo and Trish Tarrant have generously donated artworks for silent auction throughout the exhibition. Funds raised will go towards the presentation of this exhibition which has been made possible due to the unfailing support and respect for Peggy held throughout her community.

#### GALLERY 2 | MUNDARING ENVIRONMENTAL ART PROJECT

Hundreds of primary school children from across the eastern region have immersed themselves in a world of environmental discovery and problem-solving to come up with designs for the 2017 Mundaring Environmental Art Banners to be displayed in the Mundaring town centre.

Mundaring Arts Centre is in the heart of Mundaring at 7190 Great Eastern Hwy (corner Nichol St). The exhibition is open to the public from Saturday 21 October to Sunday 19 November 2017. Entry is free and the Gallery and Shop are open Tuesday – Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday and Sunday 11am – 3pm (closed Mondays and Public Holidays). For further details please visit our website [www.mundaringartscentre.com.au](http://www.mundaringartscentre.com.au), call 08 9295 3991 or find us on Face Book or Instagram.



IMAGES (L-R): detail from *Event 4*, mixed media on paper, 2008; *Shrine*, timber and found objects, 2011; *Boy*, gesso, acrylic on canvas, 2013; Peggy Lyon in 2009, *To The Rescue*, gun metal and timber, 2011; *Message from the Natural World*, textiles, 2013; detail from *Ritual*, mixed media on paper, 2011