

Leonie presents an intriguing exhibition

Local artist Leonie Ryan is presenting her first solo exhibition entitled 'Wet Metaphysical' at the West Gippsland Arts Centre from March 8 to April 1.

The opening of the exhibition, which features Leonie's photography and paintings, will be held on Thursday, March 10 at 7pm.

The 'Wet Metaphysical' exhibition has two references. 'Wet' refers to the selection and photographic images and paintings that relate to moisture in various ways. 'Metaphysical' refers to the nine

photographs and paintings that make the metaphysic concept titled "places in the mind".

Leonie's style is simplistic, abstract, uniform, and contains universal symbols connecting each work individually and as a whole, allowing the viewer to obtain a personal conclusion.

Leonie explores photography with passion and an appetite to break boundaries of conventional methods. Most of her work begins with the process of conceptual and philosophical enquiry and concludes with interesting, innovative and unique results.

Leonie has always had a love of art, a love which she inherited from her mother who produced paintings, sculptures and mosaics. However, upon completing school at the age of 18 she was unable to attend art school.

Leonie performed some casual work as a wedding and baby photographer, but felt her work wasn't the right direction for her to pursue.

About four years ago, Leonie contacted Yallourn TAFE to enrol in a real estate course, but changed her mind at the last minute to an arts course. She has now studied fine arts part-time for four years, and upon completion will have a diploma of visual arts.

Leonie is also hoping to pursue an arts degree at Monash University after TAFE.

Leonie said she loves her art course at TAFE, as it allows her to balance life with small children and have time to study and work on her art.

Leonie said her main aim with her TAFE course was not to develop her art, but to gain knowledge of how the art industry works.

"I just went to TAFE to gain knowledge of the industry," said Leonie. "I don't want to go into the art world without knowledge."

Leonie has also learnt, through her art course teacher, about fine art photography which gives her greater boundaries.

"There are so many avenues (with fine art photography)," said Leonie. "You can explore it more than on a two dimensional medium. I can now not just shoot interesting things, but I can recreate and turn them into three dimensional art."

Leonie has been a part of numerous TAFE exhibitions, and in 2004 entered in the Aurora Australis Art Exhibition at Marist Sion and the Rotary Art Show in Warragul. Leonie was thrilled to share first prize in the contemporary art section at the Rotary Exhibition.

Leonie has also had a photography piece displayed in the Queen's Hall at Parliament House in Melbourne as part of a

showcase of Gippsland's art and culture.

Leonie hopes to work towards future exhibitions while studying, while establishing herself as a

conceptual, philosophical and highly reputable artist.

Leonie's exhibition will be open at the West Gippsland Arts Centre between

9am and 5.30pm Monday to Friday.

Contact the West Gippsland Arts Centre on 5624 2456 for further information or inquiries.



Leonie Ryan of Nilma North with some of her paintings and photographs that will be displayed at the West Gippsland Arts Centre as part of her first solo exhibition entitled 'Wet Metaphysical'.