

## Visual Art with a Queer Sensibility

Exhibition gains from association with the La Trobe University Visual Art Centre.

The Visual Art component of the Bendigo Queer Film Festival has turned from being a weekend show to a three week exhibition, thanks to its association with La Trobe Visual Art Centre on View St. The Festival films are screened in the Centre's auditorium and last year was the first time that the 'Queer Country' Art Exhibition was shown with the films within the same venue.

The 'Queer Country' Art Exhibition of 2010 was the most successful exhibition presented to date with a record number of artists exhibiting and also a record number of people that viewed the exhibition during the three week exhibition.

The 2011 exhibition is proving to be just as strong, diverse and topical as last years.

One of the works to be shown is on a regional tour of Victoria from Stawell, Ararat, Daylesford, Horsham, Melbourne, Ballarat as well as Bendigo. The interactive work will allow people to write a message supporting their acceptance and love for the GLBTI community on a ribbon. The ribbon is then tied to a metal sculpture that spells out the word 'LOVE'.



'**Rainbow Love**', by Catherine Johnson is an interactive sculptural piece directly addressing the articulated concerns of gay and lesbian people and their families in remote Victoria. It focuses on overcoming isolation and generating social connectedness within remote regions, promoting change through artistic action, and advocating same sex marriage law reform.

This work encompasses the aim of the exhibition. It encourages acceptance of people with diverse sexuality, especially in rural areas. 'Queer Country' presents an overview of local queer talent and sensibility. A diverse arrange of issues are presented in an array of material and media.

The wider community is invited to view these works to gain a greater understanding and acceptance to the issues that face GLBTI individuals in rural areas.

'Queer Country' will be on display at the La Trobe Visual Art Centre, 121 View St, Bendigo, from the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March until 17<sup>th</sup> April. The Bendigo Queer Film Festival will open and screen from the 8<sup>th</sup> April. [www.bendigoqueerfilmfestival.com](http://www.bendigoqueerfilmfestival.com)

For more information regarding the 'Queer Country' Art Exhibition as part of the 2011 Bendigo Queer Film Festival please contact Noel Hourigan, Exhibition Coordinator, on mobile 0417 557 548 or by e-mail [noelhourigan@hotmail.com](mailto:noelhourigan@hotmail.com)