

Dierdre Nelson

The Universal Provider

Through an illustrated presentation I aim to present personal experience as an artist in residence at Iaska international artists space in Kellerberrin (a small rural town in western Australia). Throughout the two month residency I set out to make craft works which presented issues relevant to the town and surrounding environment.

My aim was to create works which used materials bought in the town and surrounding area and involved the local community in the making. The issues of relevance were aboriginal culture, salination, noise pollution, traffic, drought and water saving, lack of health resources, isolation and shopping. Research also included looking at aboriginal issues, local history and the history of farming in the area.

I created an exhibition Universal Provider which presented a series of products for the town which took a wry look at issues relevant to the community and town. All works were made using materials which were recycled, collected or bought locally.

This was achieved through creating an Ideal shopping list for the town which local people presented over 300 serious, idealistic and humorous requests. These were embroidered onto calico shopping bags. These were embroidered by local ladies.

- A series of earplugs embroidered with indigenous flowers
- A series of historically modified crops dealing reference the history of land use in the area
- Rain collected and developed into a series of 'boutique' rains
- Shoes created with local school children recycling shoes and designing for the local environment.

The rain was auctioned on the opening night and the calico bags sold locally to raise money for the Flying doctors, a relevant charity to the area. The resulting exhibiting and opening event were successful in presenting inclusive work which was relevant and supportive to the community in which it was made.

The residency is documented on a blog <http://dstitch.blogspot.com>

and images relevant to the presentation can be viewed on:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/22412475@N04/sets/72157616034014209/show>