

ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# Journal

September 2009

Artist Tania Spencer shares her vision  
Toodyay Pit Firing Weekend  
Great Visual Arts Course Resources

## Regional Focus

Join in fantastic networking opportunities with ArtEdWA





## Art Ed WA Journal September 2009

### Cover Image

Photograph: Yvonne Wiese

### Inside Cover

Artist name: Tania Spencer

Title: Pythonosaurus

Medium: Galvanised wire

Year: 2009

Dimensions: 3000 x 60 x 60 cm

### Journal Committee

Collation, editing, proofing

**Yvonne Wiese** (Convenor)  
vonjohn@iinet.net.au

**Dionne Garvey**  
dionne.garvey@lizzy.com.au

**Sarah Hannah**  
shannah@pcacs.wa.edu.au

### Graphic Design & Layout

Yvonne Wiese

### Contributions

Contributions are invited but place the publisher under no obligation. Supplied materials require copyright permission to be attached or made available. All photographs must be at high resolution and must have accompanying attributions.

Copy may be provided via email or CD

**ART EDUCATION ASSOC OF WA**  
PO Box 523  
MOUNT HAWTHORN WA 6915  
www.arted.org.au

### General enquiries

**Lynda Kuntjy** (President)  
lynda.kuntjy@gmail.com

*Although all editorial material is thoroughly checked for accuracy and authenticity, the editor/publisher cannot accept responsibility for information in this publication that may be ambiguous or incorrect.*

## Contents

- 2 Tania Spencer - Biography
- 4 The World Around Me - 2AVAR Differences
- 8 Japanese Tea Bowls - Ceramics
- 10 Toodyay Pit-firing
- 12 Build Your Own Bin Kiln
- 14 Painting the Kimberly - Middle Childhood
- 16 Denise Walker - Interview
- 18 A Sense of Place - 2AVAR Landcape
- 20 Tips for Writing an Artist Statement

---

## From the Journal Committee...

This issue of the ArtEdWA Journal focuses on the work of two Regional artists: Tania Spencer, whose intricately woven sculptures have been standout works at the 2008 and 2009 Sculpture by the Sea - Cottesloe; and Denise Walker's vivid explorations of the Kimberley landscape.

Be inspired to get involved in the next professional development opportunity provided by your Association, when viewing the exquisitely varied results from the Toodyay pit-firing .

As always, we have endeavoured to present a selection of fabulous student briefs that issue complement our Regional theme.

**Enjoy!**

# Tania Spencer

## Biography



Tania Spencer at work.



'You Want to do What?!' 2009 (Tow an iceberg from Antarctica). Galvanised wire, 1700 x 200 x 400 mm.

Tania Spencer was born in 1967 and has a small business background in fashion manufacturing and retail clothing. She now lives and works rurally from Lake Grace WA. Returning to art in 1999, Tania initially began studying a Certificate III in Art Fundamentals at Curtin College of Higher Education in Esperance, then took the opportunity of a remote education pilot program offered by Curtin University of Technology resulting in a Bachelor of Arts in 2007. Over the course of six years this remote learning process required traversing the state to Kalgoorlie, Esperance, Northam, Margaret River and Midland in the pursuit of studies.

Although currently working with wire, Tania is a mixed media artist often working with recycled and found materials. While her work is deceptively simple in its form, the underlying social or environmental context, constantly questions our state of existence and awareness. She has exhibited since 2000 in group shows regionally as well as Perth, Adelaide, Sydney and Japan, and her first solo exhibition in 2007 was in the Access Gallery, Curtin University as the result of receiving the Curtin Guild Grant "On Show".

As the 2008 winner of both the NAB WA Sculptors Scholarship and Kids Choice Award at Sculpture by the Sea Cottesloe, she will use the prize money to travel to Europe to investigate the wire working methods of the Slovak Tinkers. She was the winner of the Judges Choice - City of Melville Art Awards in 2006, is represented in the City of Melville Textile Collection (2006) Piney Lakes Sculpture Walk Melville (2008) Gomboc Gallery and Sculpture Park Collection (2007), City of Bunbury (2009) and various private collections.

Tania has been a sessional lecturer for Curtin Regional University Campuses. As co-owner of the Lake Grace Multi-Artspace, a community run artist gallery and workshop that was established to promote wheatbelt artists and deliver innovative arts experiences in a regional capacity; she holds workshops locally and coordinates the Lake Grace Artists' Group Program.

Currently Tania has just completed a sculpture for 'Understory' (formerly the Northcliffe Sculpture Walk).



## Artist Statement

My work is a blend of the ancient process of nalbinding (also known as ‘knotless knitting’ or ‘single needle knitting’) viking knit and more recent knitting techniques. My mother and grandmother taught me to knit and crochet. I was about 8 years old when my father gave me a pair of pliers and a roll of copper wire to play with. Combining technique and materials was a natural progression. As a child I was exposed to the CWA craft movement, and traditionally, women’s domestic craft has played a very important role in communities. Learning craft skills has created opportunities to socialise, make life long friends and provided a means to mark important events. It allows both for the creative expression of individuals, and the sharing of skills over the generations. These communal activities and familial influences reflect strongly in the methods and materials I use, and are evident through much of my work.

Additional influences include the rural ‘make do’ heritage and the minimal nature of Japanese design. I am interested in mathematics and number patterns. The Fibonacci sequence, hyperbolic space and fractals in relation to transformation, growth and decay in nature intrigue me, as does geometry and its links to pattern and repetition.

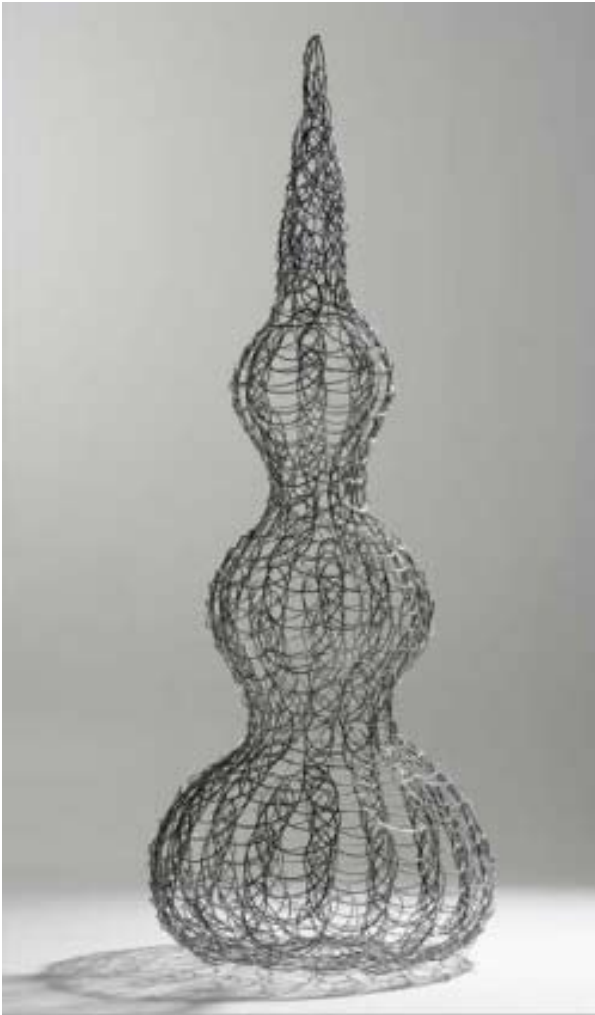
Growing up in a small predominately European Australian town, distant from the city, limited my early experience of diverse cultures and ethnicities. Cultures other than my own intrigue me. I look intently at the skins, cultural garments and traditions that make each of them unique, as if to absorb how I am different. These diversities, as well as the natural environment are the themes for my inspiration.

Conceptually my work is psychoanalytical in that it questions the human condition, how we exist, and importantly our perception of how we exist, both physically and spiritually, in relation to ourselves, each other and our environment. As such, societal issues like belief systems, social conditioning, and the human impact on ecological systems become subjects for my work. I don’t seek to solve these differences, just examine them. I try to build many layers into my work so that it is accessible on a number of levels and I don’t feel the work is fully resolved unless I can achieve this.

Contact the artist: [spencertania@hotmail.com](mailto:spencertania@hotmail.com)

Website: [taniaspencer.com](http://taniaspencer.com)

Images courtesy of the Artist.



‘Seeking Insight ... Unity’, 2007 (part of a larger work). Galvanised wire.



‘Not in My Life-Time’, 2008 (detail of a larger installation) Galvanised wire.



[www.arted.org.au](http://www.arted.org.au)

# Join us today

COVERS BY CENTRAL TAFE STUDENT BRANDON NGUYEN

## The benefits of artEd

1

The opportunity for interaction and exchange between Visual Arts Teachers on a professional and social level.



Access to all areas of the Art Education Association of WA's website, [www.arted.org.au](http://www.arted.org.au) all year round.



It provides information on educational developments (Curriculum Frameworks, Post Compulsary, Courses of Study, etc.), local artists, exhibitions, innovations, project briefs and carrier projects.



Discount on the purchase price of the Primary "Arts Still Alive" publication & complimentary copies of the Art Ed Journal.



Affiliation with the Curriculum Council, AISWA, CEO, PCTWA & AGWA. Also, instant online networking via our art\_ed discussion group.



Discounts on a range of art supplies at: Jackson's Drawing Supplies, Art Forum, Art Gallery Shop, Educational Art Supplies, Wooldridges & Luna Palace Cinemas.

DETACH AND RETURN

BENEFITS BY CENTRAL TAFE STUDENT NAW SWANSON

### ART ED MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL

Full name

Area of work  PRIMARY  SECONDARY  TERTIARY  STUDENT

Other, please indicate

### CONTACT DETAILS

Mailing Address

Suburb  Post Code

Home Number

Mobile Number

Email

Please indicate if this is your preferred email (E) and/or phone (P) contact.

E  P

### WORKPLACE DETAILS

Name of Workplace

Address

Suburb  Post Code

Phone Number

Email

E  P

### PAYMENT DETAILS

Amount Due (no gst charged) **\$45.00** or student rate (provide evidence) **\$30.00**

**CHEQUE**  Tick payment method:

Made payable to: Art Education Association of WA

**DIRECT DEBIT**  Tick payment method:

BSB: **639-000** Please indicate date paid of account name for confirmation

Account: **11310553**

Date paid

Acc. Name

Detach this form and then mail it with payment:

**Art Education Association of WA**  
PO BOX 523  
MT HAWTHORN WA 6915

Signature



Art Education Association of Western Australia  
PO Box 523 Mt Hawthorn WA 6915

[www.arted.org.au](http://www.arted.org.au)

FORM BY CENTRAL TAFE STUDENT GEORGE COOKE