

Betty Bull – Textile Artist

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Textile design, to me, is intimate and intense and when I work on a piece of wearable art I become totally consumed. The colours I work with are inspired by the natural environment. I love the challenge of extending the boundaries that the manipulation of textiles invokes.

I have attended many workshops to gain further knowledge in my chosen areas of interest. I have a Dip Ed and BA and during my Teacher's Training diploma I took Art as an elective. It was my grandmother, a tailor, who inspired in me a love of stitching. She used the silk of parachutes (from an Air force Officer neighbour), to create beautiful nightwear and underwear (and my Christening gown) during the war years when quality fabrics were virtually unprocurable. I have always been a keen dress maker and quilter. I have attended workshops on both surface design and felting at the Textile Forums at Orange and Geelong conducted by leading international and Australian experts in their fields. I am a member of ATASDA (Australian Textile Arts and Surface Design Association) Beaudesert branch calling ourselves "Women of the Cloth" and contribute to our demonstrations and challenges. In February we have an exhibition at the Boonah Art Gallery called "The Challenge". Two of my art quilts were chosen in the juried 'State of the Art' quilting exhibition that toured Australian Art galleries in 2009. This probably was the time when quilters, like myself, stepped away from the traditional constraints of quilting and looked at quilting as an art form. These art quilts were published in the Australian 'Textile Magazine' and the 'Down Under Textiles magazine'.

Experimenting with the surfaces of textiles to create original and unique designs is my passion. It is how I manipulate the fabrics and fibers that create the end result that satisfies. My work involves design, interpretation and inspiration and the ability to 'paint' with wools, silks and linens and other textile media. Inspiration is a very personal issue and involves the ability to coordinate colours and visualize the finished creation. It is important to constantly 'play' and experiment with colour and texture to achieve the desired effect. It was the tactile aspect of felting that first inspired me to learn more of this process. My work involves eco dyeing my fabrics using native leaves and lichens mainly collected from my rainforest garden. I love the surprises I get when a new plant or leaf gives me an unexpected colour or image.

I am a member the Tamborine Mountain Arts Collective and will be exhibiting and selling my work at the BVAC Pop-Up Shop in May

