

*Artists Statement for Fairview
August 21*

Margot Stephens b 1964 began working with clay whilst at School; in 1980 she began selling small figurative sculptures through a local art gallery. Stephens obtained a Bachelor in Visual Arts at City Art Institute (now C.O.F.A.) Where Marea Gazzard head of the Ceramics department was an inspiration. Stephens went on to study the Maiolica technique in Italy and returned to Mudgee to establish a professional studio in 1988.

Working predominately in Gulgong's Puggoon pink earthenware for ceramic sculptures Stephens has pursued an interest in colour with form utilizing a variety of glaze techniques, including under glaze, onglaze and precious metal lustres. Her work has been exhibited with S.O.F.A. (Sculpture, Object and Functional Art) New York and Chicago, and Art London in the UK.

Stephens continues to work from her studio near Mudgee where her time is divided between building a light earth cottage with her husband from locally sourced materials, teaching Drawing and Sculpture through Mudgee Creative Collective, and sculpting on a commission basis.

"Magical Realism," is the style of the work she is currently exploring, as everyday events in isolation seem extraordinary and through a drawing or sculpture become allegorical compositions.