

# EMBELLISHED

Textile Collage by Robyn Kennedy



## Creating beauty, an expression of a life well loved!

My life as an artist started in the early 90's with the repurposing of interior textile sample books that were headed for landfill. I couldn't allow these exquisite materials to be buried. My mission was to recycle them into some form of visual art, and so began my life as a collage artist.

Initial works were small and intricately embellished handmade cards that were sold through speciality shops and galleries. Encouraged by the enthusiastic response from buyers and galleries alike, larger works were developed on watercolour paper and canvas. The '*Postcards from Nature*' (#14) and the '*Where Light Reflects*' (#24) installations were inspired by the handmade card series.

After returning from an inspirational trip to Rajasthan India in 1996, my exotic women series came to life. Intricately handstitched antique textiles from Jaisalmer, along with beautiful handstitched fragments from Turkey and Uzbekistan appear in many of my works. Representing this period of creativity are '*Sakina*' (#49), '*Miyuka*' (#50), '*Alina*' (#51) and '*Out of Asia*' (#52).

Although textile collage has always been my first passion, photographic imagery inspired later works. Personal photographs manipulated in Photoshop add an additional layer of complexity and dimension that enhances the narrative of the work. Botanical and nature themes as well as Japanese style, including Ikebana floral art are my main inspiration, demonstrated in many of the works on display.

Through years of experimentation, techniques and artistic style have evolved. In more recent years I've taken the same techniques and applied them to jewellery making and decorative vessels. More challenging, but very rewarding!

Since 1999 I have regularly presented my works in group and solo exhibitions throughout NSW and Victoria. This is my 8<sup>th</sup> solo exhibition.

**If you would like to see a demonstration of some of the techniques I've developed over the years, please join me on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October in the gallery at 6PM.**

*Willoughby City Council is gratefully acknowledged for the provision of Art Space on The Concourse.*

