

MEDIA RELEASE

The meeting of artists Claudia U'prichard and Sandi Harrold at a creator's market in Toowoomba eight years ago was a serendipitous crossing of paths. Beyond being fellow painters, they discovered common ground as kindred spirits, both hailing from the Queensland country, where their deep love for the beauty of the Australian bush took root. Now, these long-time friends are bringing their complementary styles to the Roma on Bungil Gallery this April for aptly titled joint exhibition, "The Two if Us".

Sandi Harrold, a self-trained artist, stumbled upon her visual arts talents after retiring from a career as an early childhood and ESL educator. Upon casually experimenting with illustration for the children's books she wrote, she uncovered a knack for bringing a world of colourful characters and everyday moments to life, radiating joy and positivity in every stroke.

Contrasting Sandi's emergence as an artist through a twist of fate, Claudia U'Prichard's work reflects expertise honed through years of dedication and artistic growth. Drawing inspiration from Australia's diverse landscapes and her life experiences exploring it, Claudia's works showcase a tapestry of colours and textures, in line with their subject matter. With watercolours and a keen eye for detail, Claudia creates mesmerising compositions that harmonise with Sandi's joyful depictions of animals and life's simple pleasures.

Don't miss the opportunity to immerse yourself in the captivating world of two synergetic, simpatico artists, and celebrate creativity, friendship and the timeless allure of Australia. Launching April 6th and running through June 1st at the Roma on Bungil Gallery.

CLAUDIA U' PRICHARD BIO

Claudia U'Prichard draws inspiration from the contrasts of the Australian landscape and flora, as well as her travel experiences both domestically and internationally. Raised on her family's sheep and cattle property near Bollon in arid South West Queensland, she later moved to the beautiful and rugged Snowy Mountains in New South Wales before settling in coastal South East Queensland with her husband. Her son and daughter, along with their families living nearby, bring her much joy.

Primarily working with watercolour, Claudia incorporates Intense pencil, graphite Aquarelle, and ink as desired. She employs a variety of brushes, sticks, and feathers, revelling in colour and texture. Influenced by Australian artists John Lovett, Malcolm Carver, and Libby Derham, as well as her tutor Valerie Pettingill, Claudia is continuously learning and experimenting to refine her unique style.

This marks Claudia's debut exhibition, a milestone she eagerly shares with her close friend Sandi Harold at Bungil Gallery, Roma. In 2023, Claudia was honoured to receive the Watercolour Award at the Exhibition of Excellence in Redcliffe. She is an active member of the Redcliffe Art Society, participating in workshops, tutelage, and volunteering efforts within the gallery, shop, and behind the scenes.

SANDI HARROLD BIO

Sandi Harrold is a self-trained artist. It was through happy accident she discovered her visual arts talents, after penning a number of children's books upon her retirement from a long-term and much-loved career as an early childhood and ESL educator, and needing illustrations to accompany her stories.

What began with a casual art-class prompted by her own curiosity, led to the unveiling of a newfound passion, which has done nothing short of thrive ever since.

Sandi has written and illustrated several published children's books and showcased her artwork in solo and group shows throughout Queensland. Her works are vibrant celebrations of life that evoke a striking sense of joy and positivity. This thoughtful purpose is emboldened by Sandi's enthusiasm for bespoke private commissions that can be spotted on walls across the globe, testament to a loving consideration that extends beyond the creation of each piece to the experience of the viewer.

For Sandi, "The Two of Us" exhibition marks poignant milestones in two cherished relationships: collaborating with Claudia for the first time after nearly a decade of friendship, and expanding her long standing affinity with acrylics to debut recent explorations into watercolours. While pieces in this new medium will present a fresh aesthetic, admirers of Sandi's art will delight in encountering familiar subjects, including her signature farmyard friends.