

ARTS



POT OF ART GOLD

BY RACHEL COCARD



RITA Power finds her artistic inspiration in rainbows. She has lived all over Australia but was drawn to the climate in Tasmania, due to its similarity with her native country England.

Power lived in the Derwent Valley when she first started creating things from recycled materials.

"Somebody told me about the Penguin Market eight years ago and said I just have to visit," Power said.

"I loved the north coast so much that we were spending every other weekend up here. It ended up being cheaper to buy a house and move up here."

She said she has never met so many innovative people before. "There is a very strong creative vibe around the north coast."

She said she finds her passion in colour and texture. "I love experimenting with knitting and dying and seeing the end result."

She said she never has a set idea of what the end result will look like. "I just let it play out, sometimes I start off by making a bag and it ends up being a wall hanging."

"If it gives me the affect I want then I am not pressured about how I arrived at the outcome."

Her current exhibition is titled *Follow Every Rainbow*.

She said rainbows bring her a lot of happiness.

"The rainbow has so many lovely connotations and it always brings happiness.

"There is a famous old saying, 'blue and green should never be seen'. But they are colours of nature and nature doesn't discriminate."

She has been a resident of the Makers Workshop in Burnie for the past four years.

She said she is always looking for new ways to create and embellish.

"Happiness for me is talking textiles and swapping ideas."

Her creations are sold under the brand Ripping Yarnz!

Power also intends for her pieces to be practical.

Her pieces range from designer handcrafted fashion for women and children, through to home decor.

"Whether the fibre or material be recycled sari silk, wool, the softest alpaca, or hand spun and dyed dog hair, there will be a place for it in one of my pieces."

Power said creating pieces of art can be very calming. "I have suffered with depression but having bags of colour in my life is very uplifting."

A selection of Power's work is currently on display in her exhibition at the Blue Apple gift store and gallery in Wright Street, East Devonport until the end of August.