

# artsource

MEDIA RELEASE, June 2012

## Artsource to honour a lifetime of unique contribution to WA Arts



Anne Neil's *Pen nibs*, 2005 that dot Stirling Gardens in Perth CBD. Photo courtesy of the artist



Portrait of noted WA writer *Elizabeth Jolley*, 1995 by Ben Joel. Photo courtesy of the artist

Next month, Artsource will recognise the careers of two prominent WA artists- Ben Joel and Anne Neil; at their fourth-annual Lifetime Achievement Awards on Tuesday evening, 10 July, 2012 at the City of Perth Town Hall.

The two recipients at this year's ceremony have demonstrated outstanding practice working across a diversity of visual mediums and have each played significant roles fostering the progression of the sector in WA. Thousands of Western Australians experience the work of these two exceptional artists on a daily basis.

"Ben Joel has influenced countless painters through his exemplary teaching and art practice, while Anne Neil's work can be enjoyed by anyone moving down St George's Terrace or driving on our Freeways and Highways", said Artsource Executive Director, Jude van der Merwe.

The Awards are granted each year to artists who have demonstrated a continued excellence in their chosen visual art practice for over 25 years. The tributes aim to publicly commend artists with a lasting contribution to the art community and whose value to their peers is momentous.

"Anne Neil and Ben Joel embody the spirit of collaboration that in turn nurtures further generations of artists whose thinking and creativity delights us", van der Merwe continued.

The winners will be recognised at the hugely popular annual event that sees artists, gallerists, commissioners and lovers of art come together to applaud the special contribution which they have made to the cultural life of our State



2011 Lifetime Achievement Award recipients Pippin Drysdale and Brian McKay at last year's ceremony. Photo: Ben Riches

This year's ceremony will also be hosted by distinguished art critic, writer and broadcaster; Andrew Frost. Frost is a regular contributor to *The Sydney Morning Herald* and in 2007 wrote and presented the three-part series; *The Art Life* on ABC. During his brief visit to Perth, Andrew Frost will give inspiring talks on "Science and Fictions"

and contemporary art, held at King St Art Centre.

Artsource's guiding principle is to empower visual artists to build sustainable careers, and it sees recognising their talents and contribution in this way, as positive motivation to cultivate the sphere of visual arts in WA.

Acceptors of last year's Lifetime Achievement Awards were ceramists Pippin Drysdale and modernist sculptor and painter; Brian McKay. Both artists were honoured for their capacity as artists as well as their valued enduring influence on the art community.

#### **EVENT DETAILS:**

**Artsource Lifetime Achievement Awards.** With special guest Andrew Frost

Tuesday 10 July, 6:30p.m. Formalities commence at 7p.m.

City of Perth Town Hall, Corner Hay Street + Barrack Street , Perth

#### **Andrew Frost "SCIENCE/FICTION" Talk**

Wednesday 11 July 9.45 to 11.30 am

King St Arts Centre, Level 1, 357 Murray St, Perth

**Bookings through Artsource are essential: 08 9335 8366**

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**ALL MEDIA ENQUIRIES + IMAGES:**

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**ABOUT ARTSOURCE**

Artsource is Western Australia's peak representative body for visual artists. A not-for-profit organisation in operation since 1986, Artsource works to expand and improve the sustainability and profile of artists through practical services and support. For more information, please visit [www.artsource.net.au](http://www.artsource.net.au)

**ABOUT THE AWARDS**

Artsource launched the Lifetime Achievement Awards in May 2009 with the expressed intention of paying respect to artists who have sustained their practice achieving excellence in their chosen field for over 25 years. The annual Awards are just one way to acknowledge the rich contribution of artists in our community while developing greater pride within the art sector. Previous Award winners are Brian McKay, Pippin Drysdale, Nalda Searles, Hans Arkeveld, Shane Pickett, George Haynes and Stuart Elliott.