

+ Monday, 28 May 2007

stepping **OUT**

ART CULTURE with Kate Moore

TWAIN SHALL MEET

Where: Gosford Regional Gallery foyer

When: Open now until June 20

BLACK and white have always been used to depict polar opposites, but as Lake Macquarie artist Rhonnda Walters found there is a lot of colour in between.

Walters will open her exhibition *The Twain Shall Meet* on Friday, with the public invited to see the works in the foyer of Gosford Regional Gallery from Saturday.

The works all play with blocks of black and white and are an experiment with different mediums and surfaces to find colour, definition and texture in what is, at first glance, a solid mass of colour.

"What I call my ebony experience has been one of the most exciting groups of paintings that I have ever worked on," Walters said.

Walters said she was fascinated by black paintings and had worked with matt colours and shiny colours and surfaces and discovered a world of fascinating subtle colours that changed as she moved around the works, or during the stages of completion.

"I used stains and inks and so many different mediums," she said.

Walters used Indian ink, what she said was the blackest black, and her preferred darkening agent, wood stain. She said she also mixed her own version of black for some works.

While black is predominate in the series, Walters also used white saying it was a much harder choice to paint with.

"I always wanted to do white, but the energy of the black is always there.



Lake Macquarie artist Rhonnda Walters with works from her latest exhibition.

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There's a lot of black and a lot of white, and sometimes the twain *does* meet," she said. "I've got blues and reds in there, but it's still black," she said.

Walters said the 20-odd works in the exhibition opening this weekend would not be the end of her experimenting with black and white and that there were still more white works she would like to explore.

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