

## What a masterpiece: Mercato on Byron gives artists memorable new home

Byron Bay's highly anticipated new multi-million dollar retail hub is soon to unveil its own artistic masterpieces, with three major pieces commissioned as part of the precinct's public art fit out.

**Mercato on Byron** is just days away from opening its doors and revealing the captivating artworks that gives this precinct its truly Byron vibe.

Two local artists, Nyree Mackenzie and Woody from Eastern Forge, have collaborated on two of the pieces: 'Feather Chair' and 'The Big Scrub', while a third artwork by local aboriginal artist Lois Cook will be installed at the travelator entrance to the precinct.

Her piece 'Bubarah' tells the story of Yarbirin, a Jesus-like figure in the Byron Bay region who handed down the lore of the local people, and his son who continued the teachings in his place.

"Our lores are about giving and receiving, forgiving and celebration of life, and this piece symbolises that country is home, and peace; nourishment for body, mind and spirit," said Lois Cook.

"This is a unique partnership between Mercato on Byron joint venture partners developers *Azzura Investments Limited and Wingate* and the local arts community.

"Mercato on Byron has such a distinct Byron flavour, thanks to the use of natural, raw and recycled materials in the fit out – and the addition of stunning local artworks is the icing on the cake!" said Nyree Mackenzie.

As well as the art pieces incorporated into the building itself, Mercato on Byron also boasts the Garasu Art Studio and Gallery – an extension of the established Garasu Lodge – where more than twelve artists from south east Queensland will be featured when the precinct opens.

The precinct's entire design concept has been created by Byron Bay interior designer Nyree Mackenzie, who has also overseen the retail shop fit-outs to ensure the relaxed coastal feel and affinity for the environment is consistent throughout.

It is the first retail precinct in Australia to be awarded 5 Star Green Star Retail Centre Design v1 2018 rating for its low carbon footprint.

"Mercato on Byron is so much more than a shopping complex.

"It's a haven for the artistic brilliance of the region, from oil paintings and landscape drawings to resin sculpture, ceramics and glass work, I'm so excited to be able to

showcase the talent of the regions's artistic community to the two million annual visitors to Byron Bay," said Nyree Mackenzie.

Artists including Ian Tremewan, Lorraine Abernethy, Mal Leckie, Leisa O'Brien, Otto Schmidinger, John Turton and Manuela Pilz will be exhibited alongside sculptors Damian Berrili, Ilia Chidzey, Stephen Baxter and Jutta Pilz at the new gallery.

Leasing opportunities are limited, please contact Sophie Christou, Raine&Horne 0419 399 222 or Kelly Buxton, Colliers International 0456 640 349 to discuss availability.

Proper Management enquires Melanie Meers, Ray White Commercial, 0439 333 878.

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Image below: Lois Cook original artwork 'Bubarah'

