



Australian Government
Australian National Botanic Gardens

MEDIA RELEASE

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Botanic Gardens displays nature's canvas

The Australian National Botanic Gardens latest exhibition, Nature's Canvas, features a striking collection of artworks by Canberra artist and nature photographer, Yvonna de Jong.

Ms de Jong's signature, intimate photographic style creates a warmth and mood that enables the viewer to feel immersed and enlivened by her work.

"I don't have preconceived ideas about what I want to photograph or express," Ms de Jong said. "When I go out to take pictures it's a journey of discovery. It's a good way to develop your own style too."

The exhibition features six large artworks, including the beautiful triptych 'Ocean Treasures', showing sunlit shallows photographed at McMahon's Point, in Sydney Harbour. Other works show stunning details of rock formations at Tomakin and Mossy Point and a fascinating close-up of a scribbly gum trunk, photographed in suburban Yarralumla.

The exhibition also includes 'Earth Crust', a beautiful floor lamp made from blackwood, with inset panels showing details of rock formations at Mossy Point.

Because they show tiny features at a very large scale the photographic works have the appearance of abstract art.

"I love the small parts of things," Ms de Jong said. "I love the intricate details in nature. And then when you blow them up it looks abstract but it's actually a part of a rock or water."

Ms de Jong has previously exhibited at Canberra Grammar Gallery and Canberra cafes and business premises. Her art business, Nature's Canvas, also offers personalised art services and commissioned works.

- What:** Nature's Canvas exhibition
- Where:** Visitor Centre Gallery, Australian National Botanic Gardens
- When:** Friday 5 February – Sunday 21 March 2010
9.00am – 4.30pm
- Cost:** Free
- Media contact:** Paul Ziesing 0449 709 840