

WHO IS GILLIAN K PEEBLES?

GILLIAN KAYE PEEBLES

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, LONDON - ACCREDITED JUDGE OF VISUAL ARTS

Gillian Peebles, formerly 'Aitken', has been associated with Atwell Gallery since it's very beginning. Back in the 1970's, along with the original group, she washed walls, carted away rotting bales of hay and helped turn the original derelict house into a working arts facility. She is proud of Atwell's contribution to Melville, and the State's artistic communities. For more than a decade, she conducted classes in the original building and later expanded into the new building with the 'Tuesday Morning' group. On leaving the district, she returned to do workshops and in the later years judge and, more recently, award her Prize and perpetual Trophy at the Atwell Youth Awards art exhibition.

Born and educated in WA, Gillian's art has taken her many places, painting in unusual locations, attending leading art and cultural events and meeting some of the world's more interesting, sometimes famous people. Self taught, and multi skilled in the arts, Gillian has always been a dedicated achiever. She is a respected, multi award winning Artist with State, National and International experience.

Gillian's career highlights include:-

- invited to study at the Royal Academy of Arts in London as a 'guest artist'
- invited to be on the selection panel for the 2011 Black Swan Prize for Portraiture
- nominated for Australian of the Year, 2011 for services to the Visual Arts
- Winning a silver medal, "People's Choice" and her entry becoming part of the City of Florence Art Collection at the prestigious 'Caterina de Medici Plein Air Painting Competition", 2002 (Florence, Italy)
- twice invited to judge the Herald Sun Camberwell Art Show, Melbourne
- recipient of credits, acknowledgements trophies and awards, all relative to her ability as a professional artist and her dedication, fundraising and volunteer work for community and public arts. Over the years, her name has given title to several art awards, including her contribution to WA youth through Atwell's Youth Awards and the '*GILLIAN K PEEBLES PERPETUAL TROPHY YOUTH AWARD of EXCELLENCE*'
- Since 1975, Gillian has judged overseas, interstate and most of WA's art prizes.

In sponsoring the 'GILLIAN K PEEBLES PERPETUAL TROPHY YOUTH AWARD of EXCELLENCE', Gillian encourages young artists to pursue their dreams and love of art.

She speaks from experience and passion when she says, "The fact that I, a kid from a little town in Western Australia can end up the guest of the Royal Academy of Arts in London, is quite amazing". Consider, Gillian taught herself to reach a high level of excellence, sufficient to be the recipient of a world acknowledged qualification from one of the oldest and most highly respected art institutions in the world. She went on to do much with her life, including that 'Silver' medal in Italy. Her quotation, a nucleus in the 'follow your dream' in Atwell's Youth Awards, inspires all young artists to follow her example. **Her message to the youth of Australia "If I can do it, so can you".**