



Media Release
25 September 2019

First ever Selwyn Arts Festival set to launch

An extravaganza of art will be celebrated and created as part of the inaugural Selwyn Arts Festival.

The arts festival, which runs from 11-20 October, will feature demonstrations, workshops, a wearable arts show, live art competition and a guided gallery tour. It is a collaborative project between the Council, Selwyn Gallery, Lakeland Gallery and Down by The Liffey Gallery.

District Arts coordinator Becca Bouffandeau says the festival is a celebration that will give people a chance to see a different perspective on art in the district.

“Selwyn has a lot of great art and artists, but often we don’t know them, they’re just a signature in the corner of a painting. The festival will give people a chance to get up close and personal, meet the artists and see them work, as well as enjoying their fantastic work and making something fun themselves.”

Opportunities to see behind the scenes and meet the artists will begin with a wearable arts show feature local and national talent on Saturday 12 October and through an Art Crawl visiting Selwyn’s three art galleries.

Led by art connoisseur Kristin Kinney from Taste of Life Tours, the tour, on Sunday 13 October, will give visitors a chance to meet artists and gallery managers, pick up some art and even be the subject of their own work of art, stopping at Lakeland Art Gallery in Leeston where portrait artist Sam Wakelin will be drawing free portraits.

Mr Wakelin will be drawing portraits for visitors to the gallery from 10.30am–3.30pm.

The festival will build on the popular Darfield Artweek. Now in its 38th year, Darfield Artweek will run throughout the festival, showcasing more than 300 mixed media artworks from 120 New Zealand artists at the Darfield Recreation Centre.

For those who want to take part there will be a wide array of workshops and classes from drawing, carving weaving, fashion and photography to an opportunity to create with no rules.

A full programme of Arts Festival events and where to buy tickets can be found at selwyn.govt.nz/artsfestival.

ENDS

Selwyn District Council media
027 556 8298
media@selwyn.govt.nz