

Art's invasion of High St

LIFESTYLE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT 18 JUN 09 @ 07:24AM BY JULIA IRWIN



Phil Haddad from i Saluti and artist Tanmaya Bingham with a portrait of Phil. Picture: ROBERT McKECHNIE N50NL103

EXPOSING yourself to art is as simple as going to the High St shops in Northcote later this month.

High Views, featuring multimedia installations in 30 shops along the strip, is among the highlights of Darebin's annual Northern Exposure visual arts festival, starting June 19.

Other highlights include the opening of At Large Gallery street art at 208 High St, an Illustration Australia exhibition featuring works from 1989 to 2009 at the Northcote Town Hall, and a rock print exhibition at 374 Gallery.

Tanmaya Bingham from Thornbury is among artists who have worked with business owners to create site-specific installations.

Ms Bingham will suspend mixed-media portraits of the owner, chef and two waiters in the window of i Saluti restaurant.

"These are some of the people who contribute to the community on an everyday level and I wanted to bring this to the attention of those walking past," Ms Bingham said.

The subjects of her portraits are clearly recognisable, although she uses distortion to emphasise their underlying psychology.

i Saluti restaurant owner Phil Haddad said he was a sculptor before moving into the hospitality industry.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing the work hanging up, but the chef's a bit nervous about seeing himself," Mr Haddad said.

"I'm hoping the installations in the shops will bring more people into the street at a time of the year when people

tend to sit at home.”

Curator Sandy Caldow said High Views tapped into the crossover between Northcote’s arts and business community. Northcote Business Association with the Northcote Town Hall organise the festival.

She said some artists, such as Anita Budai and Kat McMahon’s photographic images on vinyl, which will appear at Hummingbird 60 fashion boutique, tapped into the area’s history.

“Their work relates to the history of Northcote and a favourite club (from the 1870s to 1890s) called the Northcote Inebriates Retreat,” Ms Caldow said.

Northern Exposure opens on Friday, June 19, from 6pm to 9pm and runs until June 21. High Views runs until July 6.

For more information, go to <http://www.northernexposure.org.au>

<http://www.whereilive.com.au>

