

goodlife

FOOD & WINE/ART/BOOKS/TRAVEL/GARDENING ... AND OTHER WEEKEND TREATS

THIS WEEK

New eatery keeps the sunny side up; Sam Teskey goes solo & Rosie Martin on the importance of building secure bridges



Huon Valley artist
Kat Scarlet.

JUST THE RIGHT HUE

WORDS **DAMITA LAMONT**
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Hyper-colours and striking prints enliven the iconic Tasmanian landscapes, flora and fauna in artist Kat Scarlet's works.

Based in the lush Huon Valley, Scarlet is often found immersed in nature and its minutiae of detail which is then highlighted and transformed into exuberant artworks.

The primarily acrylic artist who also works in watercolour, gouache and custom tattoo art, is one of 20 Huon artists to participate in the Art and Away trail which will be held from November 5-7.

The trail allows people to "get a little glimpse into how an artist works in their own space", as guided by a hard copy or interactive online map, and encourages them to enjoy local accommodation, food and beverages along the way.

"I enjoy spending time watching birds in our bush garden, fungi foraging and hiking, well more of a slow walk punctuated with lots of stops to study plants or wildlife," Scarlet says.

"I love to take the time to examine details in the environment that might otherwise go unnoticed and re-create them in my works, utilising pattern, hypercolour and scale to experience them in new ways.

"I am obsessed with colour, it's just the way I see things. I will walk around a beautiful location like the Hartz Mountains and be inspired by that, I will take photographs and later look at them seeing everything boosted."

With an artistic resume as colourful as the acrylic paint used, Scarlet's pursuits include everything from jewellery to body art.

"I was born on the precipice of the punk era in the northwest of England, and was always busy doing something creative (or dangerous) as a child," Scarlet says. "I left high school to go to art college in Merseyside, then on to study silver jewellery making in Manchester before moving to Australia in 1998.

"I lived in the southwest for 11 years where I pursued a jewellery career creating silver and semiprecious gemstone pieces inspired by the local flora and fauna. My next move was to the northern suburbs of Melbourne where I was busy creating art on skin as a custom tattoo artist, and now in Southern Tasmania I once again find myself drawn to the nature all around me."

Today Scarlet juggles art-making with motherhood to a 16 and nine-year old, a fine balancing act that has taken years to perfect. "I draw a line between the two worlds; dropping my daughter off to school, having my walk then going straight to the studio, where I finish at 2.30pm and pick her up again."

Scarlet is planning a collaborative exhibition in December, also featuring a writer and musician, which will operate out of the Artbox - a shipping container owned by the Huon Valley Council which has been converted into a transportable gallery space.

Art and Away will be held at participating artist studios from November 5-7, 10am-4pm. Hard copy maps of the trail can be found at Kate Hill Wines or Willie Smith's cidery.

For further information, an interactive online map, accommodation and culinary suggestions, visit <https://tamohuonvalley.wixsite.com/artandaway> and for further details on the artist visit www.katscarlet.com/