



# THE PARTNERSHIPPING PROJECT

## ***The Partnersshipping Project Synopsis:***

(a 'user's guide')

\* *The Partnersshipping Project* is a project based around an exhibition of art that travels to 4 regional gallery destinations. The works are made by 20 regionally based artists, each of whom has created work in response to the question: 'does place matter?'

\* *The Partnersshipping Project* aims to explore the extent to which the places where we live, and the communities with whom we share our lives, and who affect who we are. In the past, place, along with friends, family and traditions, provided the strongest grounds for building a sense of belonging. This exhibition questions the extent to which this might have changed - or not.

Psychologists believe a sense of belonging is fundamental to the development of personal growth, self-esteem and the realisation of potential. Yet, in today's media-saturated world, we may feel as if we get a sense of belonging through on-line experiences more than we do through an attachment to place.

The globalised world brings us images, ideas, music, art and literature from all across the planet, through on-line platforms and providers that are more powerfully funded than local entrepreneurs. Multi-national conglomerates like Facebook, Amazon, Apple, Netflix, and Google provide us with our daily doses of news, sport, fact, fiction, fashion, fetishes and culture. They make us aware of 'what's trending' internationally, and it would be easy to think that these provide us with the strongest links, affiliations and identifiers.

We are all 'global citizens'. But to what extent are we still part of 'local communities'? Is it possible to be both global and local? Does the emphasis on being in touch with what's 'global' affect the way we are able to recognise the little idiosyncratic differences of what's right in front of us in our everyday lives? Or are these everyday details of our local lives made to seem too small, too local, too trivial to matter?

*The Partnersshipping Project* is based around a travelling exhibition of art. But those of us involved in the project like to think of the word 'art' as a verb, rather than a noun. That is, it's a kind of 'doing, being or having or helping word' – a word that performs an action, rather than one that acts as a passive subject. In this case, the action of art is to link ideas and images between the artists, the audiences, their communities and their places in a way that makes all the responses important. And that's why it's not only important that you look at the work, it's just as important that you respond to the work.

The journey of *The Partnersshipping Project's* small flotilla of art-cargo-boats will travel to four main watery exchange-destinations: Burnie, Tasmania, where the chilly seas of Bass Strait wash the shores of the island-below-the-island of mainland Australia; to Townsville in Queensland, where, if you follow the currents running north through the Great Barrier Reef, you will eventually come across the islands of the Torres Strait; to Lismore in northern New South Wales, a town regularly flooded by the visually beautiful but unpredictable Wilsons River; to Mt. Gambier, a town perched on the volcanic slopes that run down to the Limestone Coast of South Australia. After its journeying of exchange, the small fleet will once again cross the waters of Bass Strait to return to Burnie from where it began. This time, the fleet of eight will bear art from each of the four destinations.