

Artist Of the Week

Merryn Brown

****NEW****



The world of art and culture is never a “one size fits all” affair. The artist often has to try on a range of styles and approaches before discovering their place in their chosen genre.

Designer Shoemaker, Merryn Brown, has been creating unique leather footwear with a difference for over 20 years. Largely self-taught, her success has been achieved through experimentation, observation and a willingness to take on challenges and maintain an open and flexible attitude. Furthermore, her brief encounters with other experienced shoemakers gifted her with invaluable ‘tricks of the trade’. Merryn trades as Zarim Designs and currently operates from her workshop in Ocean Grove.

The main focus has always been to create footwear that is of high quality, is comfortable, colourful and is distinctive in style. Her designs are available in baby booties and children’s shoes, thongs and slides, shoes and boots, and a range of leather and suede accessories. She has gained a lot of inspiration from her regular trips to India, where she collects a variety of braids, buttons, etc. to incorporate into her designs. Her made-to-order service caters to each customer’s vision and requirements, and she derives great pleasure from ‘happy & satisfied’ customers!

More recently, people with foot problems and sensitivities have expressed a need for a

suitably designed soft, light and comfortable shoe, that also looks good! Merryn has been approached by Melbourne Podiatrist, Phillip Carter in support of this need. He was looking for someone to make a style of shoe that was currently unavailable to his clients. Mr Carter works in Rehabilitation in the Public Health Dept. and is also a Lecturer at the School of Podiatry at Latrobe University. Through ongoing collaboration with Mr Carter, Merryn has developed a new Palliative Care Shoe Range, and although they are specifically designed for management of sensitive and fragile feet, they are also suitable for any men and women of all ages.

Merryn’s work will be on display as a part of the ‘Hand Made in Geelong Exhibition’ opening this Saturday at the National Wool Museum in Geelong. A more extensive range can be seen and purchased from Mandala Gallery in Ocean Grove, via her website or you can contact her directly for personalised fittings. She also attends some Melbourne craft markets and local festivals.

You can find Merryn at Zarim Designs, 226 Thacker Street, Ocean Grove, Vic. 3226. Her phone number is (03) 5255 5860 or 0414 375 052. Email: zarimdesigns@sunet.com.au
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