13th November 2019

**Art, Words and Freedom – Writing Competition**

**What constitutes freedom? A life free from religious or political persecution? No mortgage? Cancer-free? Escaping a violent relationship? Inverloch-based artist John Mutsaers has explored freedom in his art series, The Infinite Birdcage and is inviting writers to do the same.**

Dear Writer,

At ArtSpace we are excited to be soon to host John Mutsaers’ The Infinite Birdcage Series. John is a world- renowned artist whose work is found in galleries and collections, both corporate and private around the world including the late Princess Margaret’s and astronaut/lunar explorer Charles Duke’s.

He started his latest work based on the theme of freedom. As he became more and more engrossed with the notion and what it meant he started to think about how writers would engage people with their concept of freedom.

When John invited me to view his series, I expressed to him my delight at his work. He said to me, “Thank you, but it is the ones who can create a picture without using a drop of paint I admire. It is these people that I want to engage in my project.” He is, of course, referring to writers. To you.

Would you consider being a part of this very innovative project? John would very much like you to be part of developing a broader understanding to the notion of freedom by having you engage with his paintings at a public exhibition in February next year.

John would like you to craft your own picture of freedom in no more than 2000 words using the Infinite Birdcage paintings as a catalyst. Your writing can be fiction or based on your lived experience. First prize will be a $400 framed original The Infinite Birdcage drawing.

There will be three finalists whose work will be published in the leading Gippsland lifestyle magazine and later published in a book about the Infinite Birdcage featuring all the paintings and selected narratives.

If you are interested in taking part, or interested in the concept, have a look at John’s website <https://www.johnmutsaers.com/about-the-table> or contact me on artspacewonthaggipresident@gmail.com.

The opening is between 4–6 pm on 23rd of February 2020 and the exhibition will run until 29th of March 2020.

Entry forms are on our website. If there is anything else you need to know feel free to contact me.



Liane Arno

President

ArtSpace Gallery Wonthaggi