

ART

Artist Wanda Gillespie.
Picture: Bruce Hunt
d471268



FACT FROM FICTION

IN a town where heritage reigns, seven artists have come together for a new exhibition that aims to turn history on its head.

The five Australian and two international artists have brought together photographs, sculptures and paintings for the Fremantle Arts Centre exhibition *I Was Here*, turning the known world upside down and passing fiction off as fact.

Among them is New Zealand artist Wanda Gillespie, who has handmade items that have the look of culturally significant artefacts, but in reality are

nothing more than a figment of her imagination, while the work of Canberra artist Tom Buckland uses a series of peepholes to let the viewer into a world of skeletons, miniature people and magical places.

Exhibition curator Anna Louise Richardson said the work explored the ways people remembered history.

"The exhibition came together as a response to the loaded history of Fremantle Arts Centre and the surrounding area," she said.

"I'm interested in the changing uses and recorded

histories of spaces, places and infrastructure and *I Was Here* brings together seven artists who explore this in an environmental, social and built context."

I Was Here is one of two exhibitions launched at the Fremantle Arts Centre on Friday, with New York-based artist Ian Strange also opening *Island*, a photographic collection of foreclosed suburban houses that looks into the fragility of a home.

I Was Here and *Island* are at the Fremantle Arts Centre until September 16.

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