



## Maggy Johnston MFA (hons)

Sculptor - Contemporary Textile Artist - Exhibitor – WOW Finalist - Tutor

For as long as I can remember, my life has revolved around the transformation of available materials into textiles, clothing and sculptural pieces. The philosophy of use, re-use and re-create, often out of necessity, but now out of respect for the health of the environment, remains a fundamental element of my art making.

My art practice, and workshops, are based on the concept of 'play' and constant experimentation using unusual pre-used materials. Out of this 'play', lines of work continually evolve as the materials such as copper wire, bicycle inner tubes, plastic bags, fishing line and technological wires lead me in new directions.

An important aspect of my work is the sharing of my life-time of learning and the sharing of my philosophy of respect for the environment, while being a champion for the place of women. Gender equality and the recognition of women's skills and crafts have been ignored or trivialised for too long. By using many 'masculine' recycled materials, I encourage viewers and fellow art-makers to consider these important issues while looking at or creating beautiful and intriguing pieces. We often block ourselves as a result of self-doubt, but I endeavour to create a comfortable, fun and inspiring environment in which people can relax, share, challenge and create.