

# Call for abstracts: Arts, environment and activism symposium



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## Wild/flower Women

Judith Wright (1915-2000 + Kathleen McArthur 1915-2001)

***Reflections on artists, environment and activism***

***One Day symposium***

Wednesday 23 November 2016

CQUniversity Noosa

*It is only when the mind opens that the flower blooms*

(McArthur 1982, p.8)

The role of women writers and artists has been crucial in raising awareness about the specific characteristics and qualities of the Queensland environment. Through their activist involvement they have been instrumental in bringing about changes to legislation and the establishment of certain national parks and protected areas. Among those involved were Kathleen McArthur, particularly working in collaboration with Judith Wright. This year is the 101st anniversary of the birth of these influential 'wild' women - women whose actions and work are well worth engaging with and celebrating. This one-day symposium will focus on exploring how the writings and work of various artists have captured, responded to and echoed the landscapes that they lived or live within and travelled across. The symposium will have a particular focus on the work of Judith Wright and Kathleen McArthur, their engagement with the Sunshine Coast and links with the nascent environmental movement of the 1960s and 1970s. The scope of the symposium will also extend to encompass and investigate historical and contemporary arts based responses, and activism for and with the more than human world.

### Call for abstracts

We are seeking proposals for short papers and creative presentations of up to 30 minutes duration for peer-reviewed presentations within the symposium. Other proposals can also be considered and may also contribute to public programs to be run in conjunction with the Wild/Flower Women exhibition to be held at the Noosa Regional Gallery and satellite exhibits at CQUniversity 24 Nov – 15 Jan. Publication outcomes are anticipated.

### Proposals may address the following:

- The life and work of Judith Wright and Kathleen McArthur and their creative demonstration of environmental activism
- Representations of Australian wildflowers and nature in writing and art
- Ecofeminism and activism through the arts
- Women and environmental philosophy
- Women's voices in the environment and public sphere. Fierce, 'wild' women, working with 'love and fury' (Judith Wright)
- The function of flowers and wildflowers
- Creative/art-based strategies used within campaigns for the environment – Cooloola, Sunshine Coast, the Great Barrier Reef
- Wildflower environments, wallum country, the micro-space
- Women's history and work with wildflowers/botanical art

- Traditional knowledges, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and representations of plants and nature
- Environmental humanities and creative humanities related to wildflowers/flora
- Creative writing responses to Australian flora – poetry, journalling, place-based memoir
- Artistic interpretation and representation of scientific data and collections
- Botanical arts, the overlap of art/science, women as citizen scientists
- Music and sound based responses, acoustic ecologies of wildflower environments
- Environmental education and Australian flora

**Abstracts:** Please submit abstracts (200-300 words) plus your name, email & brief bio note (Approx 100 words) on [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/wildflower\\_women](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/wildflower_women)

**Abstracts Due:** 31 July 2016, responses by September.

**The symposium will be accompanied by a two-month exhibition – both at Noosa Regional Gallery and CQUniversity Noosa. We will consider proposals for exhibiting a small number of paper based works, jewellery and very small 3D works.**

**Symposium Date:** Wednesday 23 November, 2016

**Place:** CQUniversity Noosa Campus, 90 Goodchap St Noosaville

**Enquiries & expressions of interest:** Susan Davis [s.davis@cqu.edu.au](mailto:s.davis@cqu.edu.au)

**For more details see:** <http://cqunoosaevents.net>