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New art gallery opens its doors

EMMA CILLEKENS
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A PLACE for artists to express themselves.

That is what Sonja Clark had in mind when she decided to open her art gallery, Sowila Designs, in Mount Isa.

"I'm an artist myself so I just wanted a place to show my own work and where people could display their art," she said.

"There are not many places to express themselves through art and have it displayed, so I wanted to change that."

She said already 10 artists had exhibitions at the gallery with work ranging from jewellery, sketches, paintings and drawings to photographs.

"And it's all affordable because I want the artists to be able to sell their work and for the people of Mount Isa to enjoy their talent," she said.

While the majority of the work displayed was indigenous art, she said it was more broad than the stereotypical dot art.

"We're indigenous artists, but we are artists too. We paint differently from the last generation. We paint our past and what we feel. We are the new generation of indigenous artists," she said.

"And there is also other local art on display, it is not all indigenous."

Sowila Designs officially opens tonight from 6pm to 8pm.

Entry is free.



ART ON DISPLAY: Indigenous artist Sonja Clark puts the finishing touches on her art gallery, Sowila Designs, ahead of its opening tonight. Picture: EMMA CILLEKENS/1017



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