



Mercy Spirituality Centre exhibition

Coromandel artist Deirdre Airey will be the focus of a unique week-long event to be held in Auckland this August. The exhibition, organized by Te Ngakau Waiora Mercy Spirituality Centre in Epsom and Coromandel artists The Friends of Deirdre Airey, will be a celebration of the artist's life and work. It will provide an opportunity for viewers to meditate on the scriptural messages depicted in terracotta relief tiles which are Deirdre's personal interpretations of biblical texts. The exhibition will be held at the Mercy Spirituality Centre, 104 The Drive, Epsom, 13 – 20 August 2008.

Deirdre Airey was a much loved doctor, artist and woman of faith. A magnificent collection of tiles was especially created for the Mercy Spirituality Centre for the accommodation rooms of the retreat centre which was opened in 1988. Works hang throughout the Centre, and each room has its own crucifix and tile. All these will be available for public view at specific times during the week, as well as a traveling exhibition of work that was recently shown in Waikato Art Museum.

A unique programme will be offered, beginning with a blessing and opening on Wednesday evening 13th August with a talk by Coromandel artists and friends of Deirdre Airey. During the week, guided tours of the tiles will take place at 2.00 pm each day. Saturday 16th will be a retreat day entitled *Meditations in Clay* which includes clay work. The closing prayer and supper will take place at 7.30 pm Wednesday 20 August.

The focus week offers a rare chance to look at works not usually on public view, and to appreciate once again the simple and contemplative nature of these tiles.

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