

Gretchen Kesoglidis was born in 1944 in Melbourne Australia. Her talent as an artist was present from an early age. The satisfaction she experienced from her creative pursuits remained long after the elation of receiving an award or having her works selected for an exhibition.

In 1960 Kesoglidis commenced formal art education at Caulfield Technical School (now Monash University). This environment allowed her to explore art on a deeper level from discussing contrasting styles with fellow student, sculptor and painter, Greg Irvine, to the essence of Minimalism.

Kesoglidis heightened her commitment to her art by undertaking full time study in 1963 at Caulfield Technical School. In this course, she was exposed to a variety of teachers including Lecturer in Pure Design, Dr Stewart Devlin. As a goldsmith and designer of Australia's coins, Devlin's lectures significantly impressed Kesoglidis' approach to the importance of composition.

Upon completion of the Certificate of Art, Kesoglidis moved abroad for two years. Absorbing the influences of life in Europe and the UK, Kesoglidis applied her creativity working in positions in the commercial sector, such as advertising assistant in the art department of two London retailers and as a window designer.

Since 2000, Kesoglidis has been commissioned to design company logos, art work for websites, posters and brochures. As part of an animation project, many hand drawn frames of various icons were required, where intense attention to detail was required to integrate each image seamlessly into the project.

Kesoglidis furthered her studies in 2003 when she commenced a Diploma of Visual Arts at the Centre of Adult Education in Melbourne. She exhibited regularly in group exhibitions and sold various works both locally and internationally.

In 2008 Kesoglidis applied her skills to the theatre, following a commission for scenic artwork for the stage show, *Tango's Violin* (directed by Alan Becher, Former Artistic Director of Perth Theatre Company). Kesoglidis designed and painted the backdrop which measured 11 x 6 m. The backdrop has been seen throughout the tour of the show through major venues in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth.

In 2013 Gretchen focussed on studies in oil painting in Berlin (Schule für Bildende Kunst und Gestaltung) and in Hamburg (International Summer Academy for Art and Design, Pentiment) with Laurentz Thurn, which concluded with a group exhibition.

In her first solo exhibition planned for 2015 Kesoglidis, who lives inner city, focusses on the far reaching effect of tranquility, which the local park offers to the community. She believes that everything we see is viewed through our personal layers of memory and what the artist creates reminds us of what we already know.