

A most innovative interpretation of the exhibition theme was Elizabeth Robert's "Rain Dance." She machine embroidered clear plastic into bubbles of 'water' and placed beads at the end of long strands of clear plastic. Her costume creates the illusion of a figure standing in the pouring rain.

Maureen Locke MacLean's superb kimono, 'Rain Storms over the Blue Mountains' was visually arresting. Her sophisticated use of the various shibori techniques and choice of raw seedy silk and natural indigo dyes was inspired, as the slightly textured matte finish of the fabric enhanced the impression of mistiness.

The riches this exhibition offered were considerable, and with each exhibit the viewer was intrigued by a new interpretation of the theme of rain. Carolyn Cabena's exquisite series on Uluru contrasted the soft brown-grey hues of The Rock with the bright orange rainwater that washes down it after a storm.

Other exhibiting artists included Karma Victoria Bains, Judy Buist, Lyn Castle, Vishna Collins, Charlotte Drake-Brockman,

Lois George, Dianne Groenewegen, Sharyn Hall, Elizabeth Low, Shirley McKernan, Gloria Muddle, Carol Pichelmann, Judith Pinnell, Liz Powell, Lesley Rippon, Carolyn Sullivan and Kath Wilkinson.

Helen Lancaster is to be congratulated for curating such an impressive exhibition. In addition, textile artists continue to be well served by the Fairfield City Museum and Gallery and its new director Cedric Boudjema. □

Below, back view of RAIN STORMS OVER THE BLUE MOUNTAINS by Maureen Locke Maclean, indigo dyed silk. At right above; three of the six panels comprising ULURU by Carolyn Cabena, each panel is 40cm(h) x 40cm(w). Bottom of page right, detail of RAIN DANCE by Elizabeth Roberts, full piece is 160cm(h) x 45cm(w), made of plastic sheets and tubing, nylon and metallic thread, beads. Sewing machine manipulation on plastic; hand manipulated thread through 1mm tubing; beading. All images by Eardley Lancaster.

