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Museum of  
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# Artist speaking up for nature

## BAM artist dinner and talk with Janet Laurence

ART and food will meet nature when highly regarded Australian artist Janet Laurence delivers and artist talk in Bangalow later this month.

Laurence's work is currently the subject of a major Sydney survey show, *Janet Laurence: After Nature*, at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia curated by MCA Chief Curator, Rachel Kent.

This second Byron Arts Magazine (BAM) dinner will take place at Pack Gallery Studio in Bangalow and aside from seeing some of Ms Laurence's work, guests will enjoy a botanical experience with the re-creation of the artist's Elixir Bar curated by Katrina and Karl Kanetani from Bangalow's award winning Town Restaurant.

"For those who can't make Janet's MCA show we are recreating a taste of what audiences will experience with the reimagining of the botanical Elixir Bar," says Lisa Cowan from The Art Connector.

Lawrence, a long time art activist, is an advocate for addressing climate change and the importance of nurturing nature saying she is unable to distinguish

between her passion for nature and art.

"I am really fortunate in that I can use my art to speak about my passion for the environment," Ms Laurence said. "I feel a greater imperative to speak.

In a way I am an activist. But the traditional idea of an activist is someone aggressively shouting something. I do the opposite. I try to entice you in to see the details."

A highlight of the evening will be a talk presented by Lee Mathers from Northern Rivers Community Gallery who will discuss Janet's passion for nature and her art.

Lee was awarded an Australia Council and Object Design mentorship with Janet and worked on *A Medicinal Garden for Ailing Plants*, part of the 2010 Biennale of Sydney.

Guests will enjoy a Brookie's gin cocktail on arrival and a delicious botanic tasting menu with matching wines from Jilly Wine Co curated by the celebrated culinary team of Katrina and Karl Kanetani.

"Collaborating with Katrina and Karl from Town has been very exciting," Ms Cowan said.

"They are completely in tune with the narrative behind the botanic theme and sensory elements of the Elixir Bar."

Cost for the meal and talk, including wines and Brookie's gin cocktail is \$120. For bookings go to: <https://bam-dinner-jant-laurence.eventbrite.com.au>  
■ Christian Morrow is a director of Pack Gallery.

**“I am really fortunate in that I can use my art to speak about my passion for the environment.”**

— Janet Laurence



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**NATURE OF THE ARTIST: Byron Arts Magazine will present renowned Australian artist Janet Laurence for an exclusive evening of conversation in Bangalow.**

PHOTO: JACQUIE MANNING