

NEWS

## Fairytale brought to life



Jim Alouat | 15th Oct 2014 5:57 PM



FAIRY TALE: Artist Simone Eisler intertwines some of the Grimm fairy tale themes with her own artistic concerns as part of the Literary Notions exhibition at Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery. Photo: Max Fleet / NewsMail

Max Fleet

INSPIRED by the Brothers Grimm and her family connection to Germany's Black Forrest Mountains, visitors unsettled but comfortable at the same time.

The Brisbane-based artist's piece titled Allure was created in response to the classic Grimm tale All Kinds of Fur and marks the final installation in The Vault, as part of the Literary Notions installation series at Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery (BRAG).

Eisler said her aim was not to literally translate this story into a visual image or story but to intertwine some of the fairy tale's themes with her own artistic concerns.

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"The story does deal with all sorts of notions regarding human transformation and all the themes I deal with in my work anyway," she said. "I'm interested in the fact we are animals ourselves and we tend to forget that.

"I will be transforming the intimate Vault space into an immersive forest by adhering specially designed wallpaper across the back and side walls and a series of 10 cloaked, masked unusual sculptures will be placed throughout the forest backdrop."

Eisler said in the story All Kinds of Fur the female protagonist used a natural disguise to transform herself in order to escape incest and then cleverly unravelled that disguise to attract and win the Prince.

"In Allure, I employ the doll in place of the single female protagonist or main character," she said.

Eisler said she has spent much of the past two years researching the links between her family's heritage, originating from the Black Forest Mountains in Germany, and the folklore legends from this region.

"I chose that fairytale for a number of reasons - one because it was a Grimm story and the Black Forrest was a catalyst for many of the Grimm's tales," she said.

Eisler said she started her latest creation by purchasing dolls of various sizes and faces and then begun the transformation process which included barramundi scales and snake vertebrae among other unusual items.

"I have materials throughout the house and I just started playing," she said. "It can take me a day, three days or sometimes a week.

"I hope that viewers, and in particular children, find the works both familiar and unfamiliar and that they question each work and why and how it has been transformed."

During Eisler's time in Bundaberg, she will deliver a very special Transformative Sculpture Workshop on Saturday at the Access Studio at BRAG.

Allure is on show until November 30.