

**GaMawson
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Invites you to the opening of



**Rainforests –
Art's Forgotten Landscape**

NSW Rainforest paintings by

Phil Ryan

To be opened on
Wednesday, 8th April 2009 at 6 pm

Mawson Gallery
63 Wilkins Street Mawson ACT
Telephone (02) 61612177

Phil Ryan was trained in both science and art. He has worked with Forests NSW and CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products for over 25 years as a research scientist and during that period spent a lot of time in the forests of NSW. Up to 2005, painting had to be a part-time activity. Then in 2005, Phil left Canberra to establish a studio south of Batlow, in the old Kunama Public School house. This is Phil's third solo exhibition.

This exhibition explores aspects of various NSW rainforests. Featured are scenes from sub-tropical, warm temperate, cool temperate, and littoral rainforests of mainly northern NSW. These varied landscapes are characterised by dense, diverse, multi-layered vegetation all competing for survival.

Phil wanted to represent some of the unique features of rainforests that strike any visitor to these landscapes. The dominance of diverse vegetation with huge biomass forces focus on the foreground detail and restricts or obstructs physical or visual access. High light contrast, low light conditions, or mist can often limit depth perception. Distinctive sculptural forms of buttress roots, aerial roots, lianas, vines, epiphytes and palm fronds produce unusual forms and textures. Phil has used both textural relief and partial 3D sculptural features to enhance perspective and capture some of these features. The compositions are often claustrophobic with an ominous resonance.

Rainforests - Art's Forgotten Landscape exhibition will be at the Mawson Gallery from 8th April to 3rd May 2009.