



**ART IN WINDOWS 2014**  
**WINNER: Global Culture, 58 Bridge Street**  
**ARTIST: Margaret Johnston**

**The story behind the artworks: "Global Communication"**

By using recycled materials in unexpected ways, I transform the meaning of those materials and create works that have an aesthetic quality, but bring attention to such ecological issues as pollution, waste disposal, the rapid growth in technology, and to our out of control consumer driven society. The transformation of meaning in the aesthetically pleasing sculptural work is integral to my current practice, and the history laden materials used, direct attention to environmental issues: an uncomfortable beauty!

'Global Communication' is constructed entirely out of obsolete telecommunication wires that would have been consigned to landfill sites, and viewers are invited to consider their own behaviours related to waste disposal, and to reflect on the effect that the exponential growth and change in technology is having on our environment. The 'peggy square', hand-knitted method of construction highlights the associated loss of traditional skills and crafts that are being lost as a result of this growth, and illustrates the breaking and reforming of communications in this time of rapid globalisation.

The transformation of meaning through the use of pre-used materials in my work is as important as the quirky aesthetic appeal and the wry humour held within it. I consider that contemporary artists today are in the privileged position to make commentary on environmental and political issues and hopefully be a catalyst for a change in how we treat our planet. I consider that my work has a quiet message, a wry humour, and an attractive aesthetic.

**Margaret Johnston**  
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