

I:I CONCERTS



1 musician, 1 listener – 2 metres apart. These concerts which are being held around the world, feature a 10 minute non-verbal 1-to-1 encounter between a listener and a musician. Eye contact and mutual gaze make this a very personal experience. Those attending a 'concert' do not know who the musician will be or what will be played, whether a saxophone, a double bass or a flute. A 'concert' may be held anywhere, in a garden or a backyard, in a gallery or even in Old Parliament House Garden.

Canberra Potters were approached by I:I Concerts organiser Sally Walker, a flautist with the Canberra Symphony Orchestra and an evening of I:I concerts were performed in their gallery on 26 October, during an exhibition of works by Robert Linigen called *Lost and Found*.

Three musicians performed: Sally Walker (flute), Racheal Thoms (voice) and Kim Cunio (oud & voice). The audience of one per artist enters the gallery space where the musician is already seated. No words are exchanged although they spend a minute looking at each other. Then the performance lasts approximately 15 minutes.

On this occasion, the resonance of the gallery and visual beauty provided by the artworks created a beautiful backdrop and an emotional experience for performer and listener.

At the end of a I:I concert the listener may offer a donation to the I:I Concert program.

The Australian organisers have to date participated in fifty I:I concerts with donations ranging from \$50 to \$3000 per concert. The foundation receiving donations (Freelance Artist Relief Australia) has received in excess of \$400,000 and has helped 87 musicians.