

# Artist's mammoth mural wins prize

By Shane Desiatnik

When photographic multimedia artist Bette Misfud won a Western Sydney Arts Fellowship in February 2002, she said she wanted to use the grant to produce very large landscape murals and further explore the different meanings and possibilities of photography.

Eighteen months down the track she has not only achieved this, but has also claimed first prize in the 2003 Hazelhurst Art Award for Art on Paper for a particularly large mural creation.

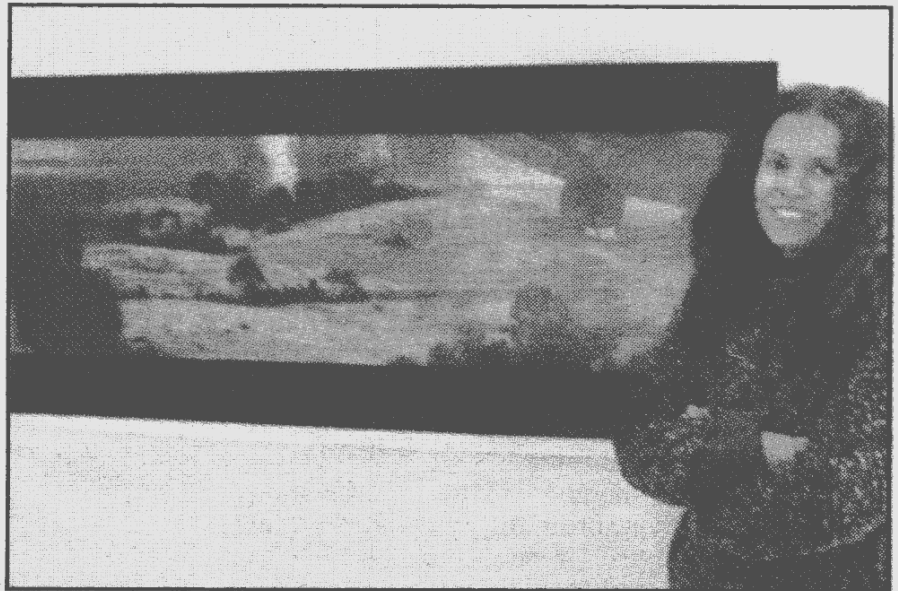
Measuring 60 cm high and a remarkable 12.4 metres long, her entry called 'Fugitive Ground' was judged the winner by the National Gallery of Australia's senior curator of Australian prints and drawings Roger Butler on Friday, July 25.

"I was lucky that the Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre had a wall big enough to hang it on," Bette said.

The mural is digitally composed of 19 different landscape photographs, selected from nearly 400 shots taken in eastern Australia during the last 25 years. Each image is blended in at the edges to create a sense of continuity.

Bette chose to present the work as a long, flat static image to allow people to interpret it in their own way.

"Viewers can look at it at



**Not the half of it:** Hazelhurst Art Award recipient Bette Misfud beside part of a replica print of her winning entry 'Fugitive Ground'. The real mural is more than 12 metres long.

close range or from far away and they can start looking at it from whichever side they choose. Some people have described the mural as a journey. It is up to the individual to find their own meaning."

A teacher of fine art at the University of Western Sydney, Bette is particularly interested in the way photo imaging technology is changing our view of the world.

"Whether it is the use of radar, sonar, satellite imaging or micrography, we can create images that we as humans have never seen before — that don't fit in with the world as we know and understand it," she said.

The Katoomba resident, who has a home photography studio and regularly exhibits in Australia and overseas,

likes to push the boundaries and experiment with her craft.

She is currently working on more large digital murals and constructing and using hand-made pinhole cameras fashioned out of cardboard with multiple angled shutters.

"It's exciting because with the tools I'm working with, you never quite know what you can produce."