

## ***The Phoenix Collection***

**January 7 to February 12, 2012**

The Phoenix Collection owes its significance to the Kelmscott bushfires of the summer of 2011 and coincides with the anniversary of the destruction of textile designer Charlene O'Brien's home on January 6, 2011.

Like the phoenix, from the ashes of the Kelmscott fires has emerged a new collection of wearable art and textiles. As the fire raged around Charlene's home, her studio and her life's work survived. More than that, the fire inspired the new works on display at the Old Bakery on Eighth Gallery. In Charlene's words:

The hand of providence protected my life's work. I am so grateful. After the destruction of the fire, I salvaged the remains of some metals from my home. The phoenix collection comprises of natural dyes hand dyed on silk using metallic objects collected from the ashes. In science, rust and ashes are a good component to natural dyeing. The silk was wrapped in some rusty objects to create a pattern and then immersed in a plant dye to let the alchemy begin. Unwrapped this is the result, the Phoenix Collection rising from the ashes.

### **Charlene O'Brien, Profile**



After graduating at the London College of Fashion in the mid 80's, Charlene O'Brien established her own fashion label ECO LOGIKA®. Charlene is recognised internationally as an eco-textile designer who combines raw organic fibres, hand spun silks, recycled remnant, organic Australian merino wool and luxurious sustainable silks, fused with various constructive and embellished techniques to create stunningly elegant, ultra feminine garments by hand and machine. Her enticing colour palette of neutral antique hues, hand dyed in natural botanicals, is highlighted by vibrant appliqué and beadwork using glass, shell and semi-precious stone.