

# Artist exhibits her body of work

By Maria Galinovic

KATHRYN Skelsey is a good example that art and science can happily co-exist in the same person – and that it is possible to achieve your dream if you work at it.

As a young person looking for a career Skelsey, 41, from Peshurst, wanted to be an artist but chose physiotherapy because it offered better career prospects and it was a worthwhile profession that enabled her to help people.

However, her artistic side kept niggling away until she gave in and enrolled in a BA in fine arts.

The part-time degree, combined with part-time work at the Sydney Children's Hospital, took almost a decade and enabled Skelsey to find an art form that most suited her.

Although experimenting with conceptual work, she settled on medical illustration, thus joining her love of drawing with her earlier science education.

"I have a good eye for anatomy which is my forte, and I know how the body works," Skelsey said.

Like physiotherapy, medical illustration has a purpose; to educate health professionals and patients, promote pharmaceutical companies, illustrate medical brochures and so on.

And it can be decorative, when in a private collection or on the wall of a doctor's surgery.

Skelsey's ideal life is to get lots of work as a freelance illustrator.

In the meantime, her exhibition, *Body Language*, at Dragon's Lair Gallery in Hurstville Museum, is a collection of beautiful figurative works demonstrating her interest in medical science, alternative therapy, linguistics, symbols and systems.

"*Body Language* examines the essence of being human and the messages that we give out and receive; to care, learn, influence and communicate," she said.

The exhibition runs until April 30.

Dragon's Lair Gallery is at Hurstville Museum, 14 MacMahon St, Hurstville.



**Scientific art:** Kathryn Skelsey with pieces from her new exhibition.

**Life drawing:** Skelsey knows how the body works.

