

Closet circus countdown

By **MIRANDA HOLKER**

THE doors are almost ready to be opened to Closet Circus, an exhibition featuring highlights of one of the State's most important collections of contemporary art.

And with art lovers from as far as Perth and the eastern states coming to the exhibition, it is also a once-only opportunity for local people to see what lies behind the front door of local art collectors Lloyd and Elizabeth Horn's Bunbury home.

Closet Circus will feature about 100 sculptures and paintings from the Horn's 25 year collecting habit, with additional works to go on display from May 16 showcasing their most recent acquisitions.

Curator Louise Morrison said the exhibition, along with the accompanying book, would unavoidably provide a history of contemporary art in WA.

Closet Circus features strange animals, odd characters and weird themes – something Morrison was very conscious of when selecting works from the 400-piece collection for the exhibition.

"This collection has a very particular character so I selected works that would showcase that," she said.

"Many of the works have the theatrical and dramatic, almost a strangeness to them – almost like a circus."

This sense of the strange also makes the exhibition very accessible and a lot of fun, something Morrison said would make it as popular with local families as art aficionados.

With the Horns committed to unveiling their collection in Bunbury, Morrison said it would give regional audiences the opportunity to see a collection of State-wide significance that was also greatly loved by its owners.

"This collection is not someone's investment," she said.

"They have kitchen grease on them – Liz and Lloyd live among their art and I think that's what many artists would want – that their work is lived among and loved."

Closet Circus opens to the public at the Bunbury Regional Art Galleries on Sunday and will continue until June 15.



Curator Louise Morrison among some of the works that will make up Closet Circus, an exhibition opening at the Bunbury Regional Art Galleries this weekend.