

The Mosman Daily

Incorporating North Sydney

Auswin TWT

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OPEN MINDS NURTURING CREATIVITY

Kate Crawford

EMPTY commercial buildings in St Leonards are now being used creatively.

Disused buildings between Atchison Street and Chandos St are being offered as artists' studios, galleries or theatrical space as part of a new arts project by Auswin TWT Developments.

Among the first artists to use the former office space is Debbie Mackinnon of Crows Nest who has joined three other artists: Ella Mucha, Julia Roberts and Sandra Blackburne to open the ME Studio and Gallery.

She describes the space as being an environment for kindred creative spirits.

"It's a meeting place where *me* become *we*, where the group is not defined by rules or conventions just a

desire to push the boundaries of art," she said.

"It's where artists can explore their passion and develop ideas on the path to becoming better painters."

The ME Studios and the Degeneration exhibition, presented by the Australia China Art Foundation, are the first two tenants for the new creative precinct.

McKinnon also runs a painting collective on Thursdays called Paint With Me where up to 10 artists paint together and she is also offering the ME pop-up gallery for a low rent to emerging artists.

ME Studio and Gallery, at 25 Atchison St, St Leonards, will officially open on April 3, with an open day on April 5 between 10am and 4pm.

For details go to: debbiemackinnon.com.



Artist Debbie Mackinnon at the ME Studio and Gallery.