

## Artists For Peace

In their language of disbelief  
at centuries of carnage, coupled  
to endless 'lest we forgets',  
they are drawing town squares  
with no future need  
for crosses and memorials.

Mind deep in the possibilities  
of painting over the small print  
of defence budgets, they reveal men  
more capable of healing  
than destroying, more in love  
with creation than destruction.

Like a mother guarding her nest,  
the composer crafting his ode to joy,  
parties for the prodigals or  
a pacifist defying tanks,  
they are sketching balm for living  
through fulfillment without harm.

Their brush strokes suggest  
life rhymes and celebrations –  
a forest's glades, the wonder of whales,  
kookaburras laughing, dolphins dancing,  
and are heeding the ex soldier's  
refrain, - 'never again.'

Their companions are poets and potters,  
musicians and dancers  
who strive towards a being  
which imagines no more fighting for bread,  
no more mourning for unnecessary  
burying of the dead.

By conquering with violins  
not hand grenades, by remembering  
the eternity of trees  
and the happiness of flowers,  
they are showing how  
to taste victories without wars.

From emotions gained  
by gazing at Guernica,  
they encourage a Gandhi vision  
of a gallery in every mind,  
which always displays justice,  
which always finds a space for peace.

*From Fremantle WA Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011*