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Artwork speaks volumes

By **NICOLA MURPHY**

IF Caroline Robinson's artwork *Her Name is in the Silence* was a person she'd be 18 by now and ready to spread her wings.

She's actually a piece of wearable art but Ms Robinson still thinks of her as one of her children.

So she hopes the organisers of the World of WearableArt – WOW – will take good care of it when the piece is shown in Hong Kong this weekend.

Her Name is in the Silence is one of two of Ms Robinson's works to be shown in the first ever international World of WearableArt performance this Sunday during the Hong Kong Arts Festival.

It will be displayed in eight

shows until February 5.

The piece won a highly commended award at the 1993 WOW competition and has been part of the awards' collection ever since.

Her Name is in the Silence was produced while Ms Robinson was working on her own clothing label in New Plymouth and struggling with ideas for her next WOW creation.

"Then I woke up one morning with a clear idea of what I wanted and she was created in about six days."

The piece is made of bright red silk with a blue body, focusing around the interplay of fire and water.

"She's very dramatic. She came out of a time when I was doing a lot of experimenting creatively as a young woman."

The 43-year-old's other piece to be shown in Hong Kong is called *Epona* for which she won the silk category at the awards in 1999.

"I created her when I was working in Queenstown so I was in a very glacial environment. She reflects the purity of the ice and waters which continue to evolve our land."

She calls her creations a "personal mythology".

"They all reflect a period in my life and how I was feeling at the time."

Ms Robinson is honoured to have her work selected to be shown on an international stage in performances expected to be attended by around 16,000 people.

"My pieces feel like my children so it's nice they're not shut away in a cupboard."

Avondale resident Shona Tawhiao's work *Te Po* is also part of the show.

World of WearableArt managing director Gabrielle Harvey says the 70-minute show has been created to display the best of the best WOW entries.

"We aim to show New Zealand to be a country of creativity and colour."



Go to www.westernleader.co.nz to watch a video about the World of WearableArt awards.



Dynamic creation: Caroline Robinson's piece, *Her Name is in the Silence*, is being displayed as part of a World of WearableArt show in Hong Kong this weekend.

