

Photographing bums

[Glad](#) I'm not the only one. I should point out this is Brisbane, in California, US.

BRISBANE – When the City Council asked local artist Beth Grossman to create a special art exhibit in honor of the opening of the new City Hall, they didn't expect her to request to photograph their backsides.

"They actually agreed," she said, with an uproarious laugh. "They were really good sports about it."

The exhibit, titled "Seats of Power," opens with a special ceremony Wednesday. With it, Grossman hopes to encourage people to think about civic involvement from the chairs' perspective.

Ten people in positions of power in Brisbane agreed to participate, including the mayor, entire City Council, police commander, fire chief and harbormaster.


Grossman photographed the participants as they stood pressing their (clothed) derrieres against a sheet of plexiglass to make them look "squished," the way they would be in a chair, she said.

She sent the photos to a jacquard weaver, where they were intertwined with fabric that she then used to upholster seats. The seats will be hung on the walls of the new City Hall conference room.

Grossman, who has been heavily involved in city politics since she moved to Brisbane more than a decade ago, said the project is intended to make people think about leadership and civic responsibility.

She said the object was also to humanize the people on the other side of the podium. Councilman Steve Waldo agreed to play along.

"After she explained to me what she was going to do, I said, 'Sure, why not?'"

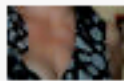


[clarkey](#) 27 days ago

What a hilarious take on the seat of power! Locve it, thanks for the laugh, Mel, it's brightened a really rotten day down here.

[halftone](#) replied 26 days ago

sorry to hear it's been a rotten day, clarkey!! Glad to give you a smile.




[Anne McGinn](#) 26 days ago

This is hilarious Mel. Brisbane is in Northern California, just a nice little suburb of San Francisco. I love that one of your tags is crack... as in, "Crickey, Mate, you really crack me up.!' Keep the cracks comin'...

[halftone](#) replied 26 days ago

Yup, I know Brisbane, Calif, drove through there last time I was in the US. :) And yes, crack up were two of the words I used in the tags....heh. I have my google news to feed me anything tagged brisbane, so I regularly receive US news :)




[clarkey](#) 26 days ago

It's only rotten in that it's raining, although it's stopped at the mo, and rather cold. We need the rain so much, and it'll help replenish the water we used from our tanks when the fire burnt across the road on Black Saturday.

It's a pity no-one thought of something like this before!

[halftone](#) replied 26 days ago




[clarkey](#) 26 days ago

Politicians' bums on display!

[halftone](#) replied 26 days ago

Ohhhh.....prolly only do it half arsed anyway ;)



[clarkey](#) 26 days ago

More than likely! :-)) We can only wonder . . . and hope!



[betha](#) 26 days ago

Now that is thinking/creating outside the square, I'm sure there will be a lot of "does my bum look big in this". Never the less, great idea and is sure to look fantastic.

[halftone](#) replied 26 days ago

Can't wait to see the results :)



[Mizz1](#) 26 days ago


hhaaha, fabulous story Mel!! you had me at: pressing their (clothed) derrieres against a sheet of plexiglass ... but to go on and make them into chairs and then hang them on display permanently.. well that takes guts! LOVE IT! would love to think we'd have some pollies brave enough to try something like this.. but i reckon they should go one further and do 'tasteful' nude bottoms!

[halftone](#) replied 26 days ago

of course, I agree :)

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Written by:

[halftone](#)

March 15, 2009

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