

# Hub for artists to unite



Kev Howlett, linvanhek and Blaise van Hecke hope the new Busybird Publishing Studio Gallery will inspire other artists.

Picture: RICHARD SERONG

A NEW artists' hub in Montmorency will open with an exhibition of works inspired by the death of murdered Melbourne woman Jill Meagher.

The Busybird Publishing Studio Gallery, opening this month, is owned by photographer Kev Howlett and writer Blaise van Hecke.

## MURDERED WOMAN INSPIRES EXHIBITION

The exhibition, *In the Suburbs of the Heart*, was created by Ms van Hecke's mother Lin, who was deeply affected by Ms Meagher's murder.

Lin van Hecke, a writer and feminist who works un-

der the name linvanhek, created 100 miniatures between October and December 2012.

Blaise van Hecke said she and her husband created the studio hub so they could bring artists together.

"We wanted it to have a real community feel, an open working space for the community," she said.

"A lot of people work on their own and that can be quite isolating.

"So to hang out with like-

minded people is really good to grow and improve your craft.

"(Lin) had been quite affected by the Jill Meagher case last year and that inspired her to paint."

*In the Suburbs of the Heart* is on show at 2/118 Para Rd, Montmorency.

Details: [busybird.com.au](http://busybird.com.au)