



It'll blow your mind!

2023 Media Kit

Premieres  
7.30pm Monday, 15 May





Get ready to have your mind blown! **Blow Up**: a one-of-a-kind competition will leave the nation gasping for air when it premieres 7.30pm Monday, 15 May on Channel 7 and 7plus.

In a celebration of skill, precision, creativity and joy, **Blow Up** transforms the humble balloon into jaw-dropping and awe-inspiring artistic creations.

Prepare to suspend your disbelief, as 10 incredibly talented Australian balloon artists converge on the **Blow Up** studio to weave their magic, with mind-blowing results that will delight fans of all ages!

Hosted by acclaimed actor and funny-man Stephen Curry, as well as quick-witted comedian Becky Lucas, **Blow Up** will showcase the competitors' creativity across several weeks of mind-bending challenges, as they are charged with turning ordinary balloons into extraordinary works of art.

Like kids in a candy store, the artists will have access to the **Blow Up** Balloon Library, stocked with balloons of every size, shape and colour imaginable.

With the title of the inaugural **Blow Up** Australia Champion and \$100,000 in prize money on the line, the serious task of judging the balloon creations falls to Chris Adamo, CBA (Certified Balloon Artist).

An industry icon with 26 years of experience, Chris has taught and created balloon masterpieces worldwide and will be looking for technical prowess, creativity, texture, colour and cohesion across the builds.

Dexterity will dominate small-scale speed challenges, while huge, show-stopping sculptures will take many hours to perfect. After a mix of solo and team builds where the sky is the limit; artists must then prepare to go head-to-head in Balloon Battles, where they will build to keep their place in the competition.

Be welcomed into a brave new balloon world where wonder is the name of the game and techniques like apple and tulip twists, friction tears and weaves and dominate. If you can dream it, you can build it...with balloons.

The balloon artists will be pushed to bursting point in the pursuit of success, praying their hopes don't pop prematurely. As the field whittles down, only three talented artists will remain to tackle the competition's huge Grand Final spectacular.

Who will build their balloon empire and walk away as **Blow Up** Australia Champion?

The **Blow Up** 2023 contestants are:

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Brendan Ord, 49, VIC     | Michelle Ferron, 33, VIC |
| Chloe Lim 40, ACT        | Nicole Brusic, 50, SA    |
| Donna Cochrane, 42, QLD  | Robbie Kay, 34, SA       |
| Justin Williams, 31, VIC | Tammie Timmers, 37, VIC  |
| Matt Falloon, 38, NSW    | Trevor Timmers, 37, VIC  |

**Get involved:**

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# Stephen Curry

Host



Stephen Curry has been entertaining Australian audiences since his iconic performance as Dale Kerrigan in the classic Aussie movie *The Castle*.

**Blow Up** sees Stephen step very comfortably into the role of host alongside comedian Becky Lucas to bring this most joyful, fun and irreverent project to life.

Diving headfirst into the balloon world, it's not long before Stephen has the lingo down pat and is speaking the language of the talented balloon artists. Sometimes he sings it too.

Stephen has held many and varied acting roles over the years, featuring in *Mr Black*, *Pine Gap*, *Hounds of Love*, *The Time of Our Lives*, *Redfern Now*, *Hiding*, *Rake*, *Cloudstreet*, *The Cup*, *False Witness*, *The Informant*, *The Secret Life of Us*, *Changi* and *Thunderstruck* to name just a few. His most recent roles include feature films *Thor: Love & Thunder*, *June Again* and *Lone Wolf*.

Stephen's performance as TV legend Graham Kennedy in *The King* won him the Australian Film Institute (AFI) award for Best Actor, an Australian Silver Logie award for Most Outstanding Actor and an ASTRA award for Best Actor in a Drama. Stephen also received the Best Actor award at the Film Critics Circle Awards of Australia for his performance in the feature film *Hounds of Love*.

Awe-struck by the incredible skills displayed throughout the **Blow Up** competition, it's clear that Stephen is just a big kid at heart, with grand plans to master a balloon dog and maybe even a pirate sword.



**What surprised you most about balloon artistry since you've been on the Blow Up set?**

What surprised me most is how incredibly rubbish I am at it. I'd hoped I'd at least learn to make something to impress my children with, but alas, nothing. The skill, talent and creativity of the artists on our show is nothing short of spectacular.

**How would you describe Blow Up in three words?**

Not. About. Cooking.

**What creations blew you away during the competition?**

The creations that came out of our prehistoric challenge are astounding. The sheer scale and attention to detail displayed by all our contestants knocked my socks off.

**What would your ultimate fantasy balloon creation look like?**

Nothing like me. I think an enormous Becky Lucas, in full medieval armour, wielding a longsword, battling a giant Larry Emdur in front of a towering inferno in a post-apocalyptic multiverse would be fun though.

# Becky Lucas

Host

@beckylucas\_



Bursting onto the comedy scene in the 2013 National RAW Comedy finals, writer and comedian Becky Lucas has been a fixture on stages and screens ever since.

As co-host of **Blow Up**, the scene is set for comedy gold among the crazy, twisted world of balloon artists, with much fun and balloon banter to be had as Becky flexes her own mad twisting skills.

Performing solo shows to sell-out crowds across Australia and New Zealand, Becky has also packed out international shows, including her Edinburgh Fringe debut in 2018 and the prestigious *Just For Laughs* festival in Montreal.

Away from the stage, Becky is often seen on the small screen, memorably making her US television debut on Conan O'Brien's late-night talk show *Conan*. Becky's other television credits include *Comedy Up Late*, *Just For Laughs' The Stand Up Series*, *Hughesy We Have A Problem*, *Orange is the New Brown*, *Share This*, *Drunk History* and *Big Bad Love*.

As a stand-up, Becky has opened for high-calibre comics, including Conan O'Brien, Nick Kroll, Jim Norton, Beth Stelling and Daniel Tosh, and hosted the prestigious *2021 Oxfam Gala* for the opening of the Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

Alongside her debut novel *Acknowledgements*, Becky has written for *The Other Guy* and Josh Thomas' Emmy-nominated series, *Please Like Me*. She is also co-host of *The Becky & Cam Show* podcast alongside fellow comedian Cameron James each week.

Becky is set to debut new material in a new live show, *Staring into Space*, following the success of her 2022 Australian tour of her show, *So Funny!*



**What surprised you most about balloon artistry since you've been on the Blow Up set?**

I was genuinely surprised by what they could do. I thought I was walking in prepared, but I was shocked every time I saw them use a new technique to create something. I was also surprised by how established the scene is in Australia and how supportive they are of each other. If someone learns a new technique that helps create a better balloon creation, they share it with their friends as soon as they can.

**How would you describe Blow Up in three words?**

Loud. Funny. Impressive.

**What creation blew you away during the competition?**

This is a tough question; there were so many creations I loved every week. But if I had to choose one, it would be from the week when the contests had to create something from the prehistoric era. There was a stunning plesiosaur that I was captivated by. I can't wait for people to see it.

**What would your ultimate fantasy balloon creation look like?**

I honestly can't think of anything that they didn't build on the show. It had everything. Lions, cars, spaceships, dresses. They even made a balloon me, which was very impressive until I let it slowly deflate in my green room over five weeks.



# Chris Adamo, CBA

Balloon Expert and Judge

@chris\_adamo\_cba



With 26 years of experience in the balloon industry, Chris Adamo's credentials speak for themselves, with no one more qualified to judge the incredible creations on Blow Up.

Priding himself on pushing the limits with balloon design, Chris will be on hand throughout the competition to help Stephen and Becky – as well as everyone at home – understand more about the masterful artists' techniques, learn tips and tricks, and decode balloon-speak.

As founder of Sydney's leading balloon styling company, The Balloon Crew, Chris also operated Balloons Online, which transformed how the industry sold to the public.

As the son of a Certified Balloon Artist (CBA), Chris had a passion for balloons from a young age, establishing his own business in 2002 and later qualifying as a CBA himself.

Drawing from an IT, design and construction background, and driven by a thirst to continually reinvent the wheel, Chris brings diverse skills and experience to his craft.

Specialising in large-scale décor and transforming spaces, Chris captured the attention of the worldwide balloon industry in 2016, featuring in many industry magazines and events.

He has since taught at balloon conventions and events worldwide, including Australia and New Zealand, Singapore, UK and Europe, North America, Shanghai, Brazil, South Africa and live online during COVID to over a thousand students. Chris has also served on judging panels at the world's largest balloon competitions.

Dubbed the "father of organic balloon décor" and voted Latin America's Most Influential Balloon Artist in 2018, Chris has also diversified his business into the online training space in recent years. His Balloonpro.co site features educational videos and the first industry-specific interactive graphic design tool to support the next generation of up-and-coming artists.

Chris is excited to see the Australian balloon industry step into the limelight and has no doubt that his job as a judge on Blow Up will be one of his toughest yet.

## What do you love most about balloons?

I love that they make people happy – everyone of all ages, genders, religions and cultures. A balloon represents celebration and love; they mark the occasions we treasure the most.

## How old were you when you created your first balloon art and what was it?

My mother had a florist/balloon shop. As a child, I always played around and made little things like smiley-faced people or balloon dogs. But it wasn't until I had children of my own at 30 that I started to explore the finer art of balloon twisting.

## What's your top piece of advice to contestants in the competition?

Artistic and creative personalities often have terrible time management. My top advice is to compartmentalise each design into smaller, more achievable builds and set a time schedule for each component you work towards. And focus on telling your story through the deliberate use of movement, emotion and colour.

## What's the biggest misconception people have about balloon artistry?

That people can't make a living from balloon artistry. People often think balloon artists are enthusiasts nurturing a fun hobby, but that hobby can become a successful full-time business.



## Contestants

# Brendan Ord 49, VIC

 @brendan\_ord

Highly respected for his skilled balloon work and known as a mentor to many in the Australian industry, Brendan Ord has taught and worked with some of the country's most successful balloon artists.

With over 16 years' experience as a twister, decorator, stylist and teacher, Brendan is the director of entertainment company Balloons by Design, specialising in bespoke commissions, parties and events, supported by up to 40 staff in peak periods.

Full of enthusiasm and passion for his industry, Brendan is credited with creating and running the biggest balloon convention in Australia, OzJam, where he also teaches at. Noted for his open and supportive nature, Brendan is looking forward to being around "balloonies" aka balloon family – during the competition. Outside of balloons, Brendan loves spending time with his two teenage sons, watching footy and going fishing, and is kept busy serving as president of his local junior football club.



### Why did you want to take part in Blow Up?

To help showcase our industry and put us back on the map!

### Are you going into the competition with a strategy or tactics?

I plan to be myself, have fun and help others.

### If you win, what would you do with the prize money?

Winning is not my motivation, but if I were to, the money would go towards a mortgage.

### How would you describe what you do?

We get paid to have fun and bring joy to others!

### What makes a great balloon artist?

The ability to adapt and think on your feet.



## Contestants

# Chloe Lim

40, ACT

 @drchloelim

A newer member of the balloon artist community, Dr Chloe Lim has many strings to her bow.

Born and raised in Malaysia before moving to New Zealand for her university studies, Chloe later moved to Australia to earn two further degrees, including her PhD in Medical Science.

A molecular biologist by trade, Chloe has worked in medical research towards a cure for metastatic breast cancer before transitioning into the government sector.

As a mum of three primary-school-aged children (including twins!), Chloe successfully juggles her full-time job, her part-time balloon business and parenting duties.

Combining her love of science, books and balloons, Chloe has created fun and engaging science storytelling shows to encourage a love of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

Getting a buzz out of making people smile with her balloon creations, Chloe plans to push outside her comfort zone and will bring her focus to every challenge to further build her skills.



### Why did you want to take part in Blow Up?

I wanted to take part because I see this as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn and grow rapidly in my balloon skills. I want to challenge myself to create balloons that I have never done before. It is also a great opportunity to meet with other amazing balloon artists in the country.

### What are you most looking forward to?

I'm looking forward to learning and picking up new skills and techniques from others in the competition.

### If you win, what would you do with the prize money?

I would like to take my family on a holiday to Disneyland.

### Are you going into the competition with a strategy or tactics?

My strategy is to keep improving my skills and improve quickly through practice. It is also important for me to think of more efficient and effective ways to create a sculpture, as I tend to take my own sweet time to create something.

### Do you have a favourite balloon artistry technique?

I don't have a favourite one. I use pinch twists a lot and find it most versatile for a lot of what I do.



## Contestants

# Donna Cochrane 42, QLD

 @donna\_cochrane



Having started in the balloon world at 13, Donna Cochrane's life-long passion for balloons began when she worked as a magician's assistant on school holidays.

Fast forward to her wedding day where she and her husband Jason said "I do" against an enchanted balloon forest backdrop, featuring her own balloon wedding and bridesmaid dresses.

Working as a children's entertainer for over 17 years and twisting balloons for over 29, she is known as "Miss Donna" when performing. As owner, operator and entertainer at Be Amazed Entertainment, Donna is well known among Australian and international balloon communities.

With a hugely creative eye, Donna is known for her big, bold designs and meticulous attention to detail. She has received seven international awards for her twisting designs at worldwide conventions; four of which were for her exquisite balloon dresses. Donna has also taught at international balloon meets and has been a part of two Guinness World Record team builds.

Feisty, fun and competitive, Donna has her eye on the prize of taking home the title of **Blow Up** champion!



### Why did you want to take part in Blow Up?

It is a great opportunity to showcase to Australia what balloon artists can do and create. I think it is a great opportunity to boost the balloon industry.

### If you win, what would you do with the prize money?

I would use it for a house deposit.

### How would you describe what you do?

I am a balloon artist and kids' entertainer. I have the best job in the world. I get to make people happy for a living and travel the world doing what I love doing.

### Do you have a favourite balloon artistry technique?

My favourite thing to do with balloons is to inflate, and as I hand it to the person, I let it go so it zooms around the room. It gets so many laughs! I love many techniques, but at the end of the day, it depends on what you are making and which technique is best suited for the job.

### What makes a great balloon artist?

Passion for the art. I find that most people who are passionate about creating art with balloons develop skills that surpass most who work with balloons.

### What would you most like people at home to know about balloon artistry?

Balloons are an amazing plant-based medium that can create awesome art and décor, and with enough balloons and enough time, we can make anything.





## Contestants

# Justin Williams 31, VIC

 @justinsgoodvibes

An established and well-known magician and circus performer, Justin Williams began twisting balloons age 13. He got bored of classic swords and poodles and began taking requests, creating anything his friends and family could dream up.

Turning that talent into a business, Justin is now co-director of the entertainment company Showmen Productions.

Justin writes, directs and performs shows for a living, performing sell-out stage shows at theatres and Spiegeltents around the world, including at the iconic Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

With a vast repertoire of balloon techniques, Justin prides himself on creating any design by sight, grabbing balloons and twisting until he gets it right – perseverance is key. Justin loves elaborate, small, detailed sculptures and hates making the same thing twice!

Known for his creativity and big ideas, Justin is a bundle of energy who loves a challenge and thinks he will thrive in the competitive **Blow Up** landscape.



### Are you going into the competition with a strategy or tactics?

I am planning to put as much advanced balloon skills into my designs as possible while still making sure they work with the overall piece. I want to try and think of creative builds that the other contestants might not think of.

### What are you most looking forward to?

I am looking forward to small speed challenges. That is where I am best. Fast, cool, quick designs.

### Prize money aside, what do you hope to get out of this experience?

I hope it helps grow all our businesses and puts a spotlight on the amazing talent we have here in Australia.

### How would you describe what you do?

I travel the world performing, writing and directing shows that I am super passionate about with my best mate who is a kick ass producer and a performer in the shows as well. I am literally living my childhood dream.

### How long have you been working with balloons?

18 years. I started twisting balloons after my first ever show when I was 13 and never stopped.

### Do you have a favourite balloon artistry technique?

I love making cool, complex designs. I don't care what they are, as long as I have never made it before, and I think it's cool.



## Contestants

# Matt Falloon 38, NSW

 @matt\_falloon

A born entertainer, Matt Falloon is a world-renowned balloon artist and mentor within the industry.

Matt is a prolific twister who can create intricate and detailed small sculptures all the way up to large-scale, high-quality installations and designs.

Starting as a magician, Matt has 27 years of industry experience. His first paid gig was aged 11. Since quitting the corporate world a decade ago, Matt has run his own leading children's entertainment and balloon-twisting business: Matt Falloon and his Trained Balloons.

Matt's skill has been recognised internationally, with his sculptures winning awards at more than 10 international conventions. He has also taught in Japan, Europe, UK, USA and Israel. Matt is most proud to have been the 2015 Dewey Award recipient, presented to a rising star in recognition of both innovation and industry contribution.

As a pop culture and science fiction mega-fan and self-confessed nerd, Matt will be inspired by the unbridled imagination of the fantasy world to bring next-level creations to life during **Blow Up**.



### Why did you want to take part in Blow Up?

I'm a full-time balloon artist, and to display my art on a national platform is a fantastic opportunity.

### Are you going into the competition with a strategy or tactics?

To do my best. And not leave with fewer friends than I entered with.

### What are you most looking forward to?

Spending time with my balloon family and sharing this experience with them.

### Prize money aside, what do you hope to get out of this experience?

To build the public perception of what a balloon artist can do for a customer, therefore, elevating the whole industry.

### How would you describe what you do?

Breaking people's perceptions of what an everyday object can be, facilitating fun, and showing parents the best version of their kids possible.

### What makes a great balloon artist?

Skill with the tools, an artist's eye, and an engineer's brain.



## Contestants

# Michelle Ferron 33, VIC

 @michelleferron123



For Michelle Ferron, 2023 will mark 20 years of working as a childrens' entertainer. Best known as a party entertainer and balloon twister, Michelle began twisting aged 18 and in 2009 created her own business, Kiddy-Winks Children's Entertainment.

With its mission to make kids smile, the business has 24 team members across Australia. Performing as Zoom the magician, Michelle does ventriloquism, magic shows, face painting and, of course, balloon twisting. She loves her work and finds it very fulfilling.

In 2018 Michelle won second place at the Twist and Shout convention in America, for a unicorn balloon design that became known as 'Michelle's unicorn' and attracted worldwide attention. She has also taken home awards at the Australian convention OzJam.

Though she cuts a diminutive figure, expect big things from this pocket rocket on **Blow Up** Australia!



### Are you going into the competition with a strategy or tactics?

My strategy is to remain calm and trust my creativity. Time spent in planning is seldom wasted.

### If you win, what would you do with the prize money?

I would put it towards decking out a camper and a trailer with motorbikes for some amazing holidays with the family.

### How would you describe what you do?

I am a dream chaser. I want to do things that feel good and give me meaning. I want to help equip others to find meaning and joy in what they do to.

### Do you have a favourite balloon artistry technique?

It's not so technical, but I love making a swirl. It creates instant impact and is so fast to do!

### Do you have any tricks/hacks up your sleeve that you hope to showcase during the competition?

I'm a decent drawer, so this little skill of mine will help in my planning.

## Contestants

# Nicole Brusic 50, SA

 @nicole\_brusic

Balloon twisting started out as a hobby for this former music teacher, but Nicole Brusic was soon hooked. Now with her own successful business, Nifty Entertainment, Nicole's work focuses on interactive entertaining, balloon twisting and décor at expos, conventions, shopping centres, corporate events and parties.

With 13 years of experience, Nicole has also taught numerous times and been a delegate at Australian and international balloon conventions.

Despite her years of experience, Nicole still feels like a newbie at times, given the industry's ever-evolving nature. She credits the industry with keeping her youthful.

As one of the country's most respected twisters, Nicole brings her calm approach and steady hand to the competition at **Blow Up**, and her quick wit and an endless supply of puns keep the mood light.

Super competitive by nature, Nicole is here to give the competition her all and is excited to spend time with other talented balloon artists as they pit their creativity and skills head-to-head.



### Why did you want to take part in Blow Up?

To showcase what we can create with balloons and shine a light on our amazing industry. We are only limited by our imagination.

### If you win, what would you do with the prize money?

I would take my family on an overseas trip.

### Prize money aside, what do you hope to get out of this experience?

I want to push myself to make cool creations that I wouldn't normally have the chance to make. I want to continue to learn and be creative.

### Do you have a favourite balloon artistry technique?

My industry peers have labelled me the "queen of links." I love to create different shapes and creations by manipulating the versatility of these balloons and other twisting balloons.

### What would you most like people at home to know about balloon artistry?

We are a beautiful, friendly and inviting industry. We put time into our craft. We're always learning and teaching others by sharing ideas and techniques.



## Contestants

# Robbie Kay 34, SA

 @robbiekaymagic

He might be the newest kid on the balloon block at **Blow Up**, but that won't get in the way of Robbie Kay giving the competition all he's got.

A carpenter by day for 15 years Robbie has also pursued his passion for working as a magician after being introduced to magic by his grandfather. Now a multi-award-winning performer, Robbie is a regular at Adelaide Fringe Festival, a stage fixture for the last eight years.

As a leading stage and close-up magician, Robbie is an expert on impressive sleight of hand and out-of-this-world illusions. With a knack for picking up skills quickly, Robbie is self-taught, with his love for balloon twisting spurred by a passion for magic. He now incorporates balloons into his shows, private events and kids' parties.

Robbie is keen to add to his repertoire, having mainly used twisting techniques in his work so far. He loves that balloons can go beyond what anyone thinks possible, limited only by imagination.

Supported back home by his biggest fans, wife Lauren and two-year-old son Carter, Robbie will no doubt have some tricks up his sleeve to conjure cool creations during the competition, dreaming of swapping the chippy life for that of a magician and balloon twister extraordinaire.



### Why did you want to take part in Blow Up?

It's a great challenge and opportunity to try something I have never done before.

### Are you going into the competition with a strategy or tactics?

I'm competing with my can-do attitude, aiming to learn as much as possible and the strategy to wing it when needed!

### Prize money aside, what do you hope to get out of this experience?

I want to grow and learn a new skill that can help me create more wonder.

### How would you describe what you do?

A whole lot of awesomeness!

### What makes a great balloon artist?

A passion and love for what they do.



## Contestants

# Tammie Timmers 37, VIC

 @tammie\_timmers



Tammie Timmers lives and breathes balloons.

As a full-time balloon artist from the Mornington Peninsula, Tammie runs Pimp My Balloons with her husband Trevor, who despite their obvious love, will face off with her on **Blow Up**.

Having worked in the balloon industry for 11 years, with five additional years twisting on top of that, Tammie started out twisting for children's birthday parties, but these days focuses more on large balloon sculptures, dress couture and balloon art.

Happy and fun-loving, Tammie's creations have been shown worldwide, and she has won numerous awards alongside her husband, including at conventions in Las Vegas. Making balloons is incredibly emotional for Tammie because she loves how they can make people feel, from young kids to older people.

Outside of their businesses, Tammie and Trevor love spending time with their two-year-old daughter Thaya, who is naturally in awe of mum and dad's work and is already skilled at inflating balloons herself. The pair will give the competition their all for their littlest cheerleader back home.



**What are you most looking forward to in the competition?**

This whole incredible new and once-in-a-lifetime experience.

**How would you describe what you do?**

Latex manipulator. Ha! We create really cool sculptures using balloons.

**Do you have any tricks/hacks up your sleeve you're hoping to be able to showcase during the competition?**

Not really. I'm just hoping to create something worthwhile that people will love. I'll be using some distortion techniques, but I don't know if I'd call it a trick.

**What creations or work are you most proud of in your career as a balloon artist?**

I created an enchanted tree and won first prize at the 2019 Australasian Balloon Convention.

**What makes a great balloon artist?**

A big imagination.



## Contestants

# Trevor Timmers 37, VIC @the\_timmers

Having previously worked in the tourism, events and real estate industries, Trevor Timmers has well and truly found his niche in the balloon world, standing side by side with wife Tammie running their successful business, Pimp My Balloons.

Meeting by chance on a plane trip 11 years ago, it was clear right away that Tammie and Trevor were meant to be, and it wasn't long until Trevor joined his now wife in the balloon game.

Starting balloon twisting for parties, Trevor is now particularly skilled in the decorator space, focusing on large balloon sculptures and wearables, with use of large-scale framing a speciality.

A big man with a big heart, Trevor prides himself on being Tammie's 'MacGyver', always on hand to help bring her visions to life. Used to working symbiotically and complementing each other's skills, the pair may find it tough working solo in the competition and going head-to-head.

When it comes to creating, Trevor's engineering brain always considers the architectural side of his builds. His creations have impressed worldwide, winning numerous awards with Tammie, including at conventions in Las Vegas and Australia.



### Why did you want to take part in Blow Up?

To help shine a light on our industry and push our skills to the next level.

### What are you most looking forward to?

Creating awesome balloon sculptures that wow the pants off Australia.

### Do you have a favourite balloon artistry technique?

I love using linking balloons with a Z weave technique to create massive shapes that can be transformed into anything.

### What makes a great balloon artist?

Great skills, a creative mind, a positive attitude and connection with people

### What would you most like people at home to know about balloon artistry?

Balloon artistry is fun, creative and addictive. There are always more things to learn from an amazing community of balloon artists worldwide.



# Glossary



## Twister

A balloon artist who uses modelling balloons (long, thin balloons) to creatively shape balloons into unique characters and designs. Most twisters are entertainers who create and perform live at events.

## Decorator

A balloon artist who traditionally uses round balloons to make large sculptures and installations to transform a space creatively. Their work can often be seen at weddings, events, corporate functions, and visual merchandising.

## BALLOON TYPES

### Twisting Balloons

Long, thin modelling balloons. Identified by various numbers to denote its size once inflated. e.g., a 160 balloon is one inch wide and 60 inches long.

### Linking Balloons

A rounded balloon with a neck at one end and a nib at the other to provide an extra connection point to link or tie onto other inflated balloons end-to-end. Linking balloons are the building blocks of quick, large sculpture construction.

## Rounds

Traditional party or decorator balloons. Identified by a single number which refers to its diameter once inflated, Eg three-inch rounds.

## BALLOON ART TECHNIQUES

### Weave

Folding, braiding or overlapping modelling balloons together to create a consistent, textured surface. Different types of weaving include box weave, brick weave and leaf weave.

### Distortion

Inflating one balloon inside another to manipulate its shape and create the appearance of a completely new shape to enhance a design.

### Double Stuffed Balloons

Placing a balloon of the same size and shape inside another before inflating, creating a different colour or effect.

## Pinch Twist

The foundational balloon twisting process. A small bubble of air is pinched within the balloon and folded together to create a jellybean shape to unite both ends, locking itself in with compression alone. Pinch twists create tight junctions or endpoints to finish or connect other balloons.

## Apple Twist

Created by pushing the knot nozzle through a round balloon and locking it off on the opposite side of the balloon in an apple shape.

## Stacking

Using round balloons usually the same size, inflated in pairs. Two pairs are twisted together to create a "quad", each stacked on top of the last using a frame or tied with a cord. When repeated, this creates a long tube of balloons used in columns or arches.

