



anne

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ART AND RUGBY LEAGUE

Panthers is an entertainment megalopolis; you can gamble, eat, see a show, even move in and stay for a while at the club or at the Nepean Shores Resort. The *raison d'être* for Panthers however, is its namesake, the Panthers League Football Club; it's a temple to football. It makes me wonder how it would be if art was as popular as football.

There would be the art match on Saturdays and Friday night art on TV. Every game, thousands of fans would go to the stadium of art, buy a meat pie and a beer and enjoy barracking for their team in the game of art. The next day at work, people would talk about their favourite art and artists, with the best known artists becoming familiar household names. Merchandise bearing the images of these artists would be available at the games, or from the Art League Shops. Each year an outstanding artist would be named 'Best and Fairest'.

Football on the other hand would be for the elite, or in-the-know fans. The venues would be graded in a hierarchical scheme with some managed by the footballers themselves (the reserves), while others would be supported by government-funded or commercial organisations (first grade players). The ownership of artists would be exchanged between private individuals and public organisations for large sums of money. The performance of these footy players would be unpredictable and driven by vagaries of taste and popularity.

In other words some things would be different, some would stay the same. I have to say... I would love to see a Panthers World of Entertainment style club full of contemporary art.