



Artist Grace Kingston (above) is off to New York to display works she created in Finland (below).

Picture: PHIL BLATCH

Carving a new niche for herself

Tyron Butson

STATE OF GRACE

- Like starts in Brooklyn, New York, on Friday, February 15
- Log on to gracekingston.com to see more of her work

GOING against the grain of our hooked-up, online and wired-in world, Petersham artist Grace Kingston is urging people to get real.

She's taking her latest exhibition, a tongue-in-cheek blending of new media and very, very old media, to New York next month and is urging people to think about the consequences of their online persona.

She's made extensive use of new and social media in previous exhibitions but it was during an art residency in rural Finland last year she got the idea of trying to capture social media in an older medium – rocks.

She carved various social media signs, including the “@” symbol, #s, Twitter's “retweet” arrow symbol and even a Twitter brand into moss growing on rocks in a forest and then photographed them.

She'll be taking Like, her collection of the photos, to New York to exhibit in Brooklyn from February 15.

“The forest itself was like something out of a fairytale, these beautiful Finnish forests with these rocks covered by this lush, green moss – and I was thinking: ‘I should take photo of this for Facebook’,” she said.

“Instead of freely looking at the things around us, we're trying to tell a story with profile pictures and status updates.

“You go to a gig and everyone has a camera phone that they're watching through, instead of actually watching the band – it's all a bit: ‘If a Tweet falls in the

woods, does anyone know?"

