

**February 18**  
**Embargoed until 7:00pm**

## **Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition 2010**

*The showcase exhibition of South Australia's emerging artists*

**Opens:** 6:00pm, Thursday 18 February

**Opening speaker:** Victoria Lynn, Visual Art Curator, 2010 Adelaide Festival

Drill Hall, Torrens Parade Ground, King William Road, Adelaide

Friday 19 February to Sunday 14 March  
Hours: 10:30am - 4.30pm daily

The 2010 Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition was last night opened by Victoria Lynn, Visual Art Curator, 2010 Adelaide Festival. More than 1000 guests were in attendance as work from some of the State's freshest new arts talent went on display.

Now celebrating its fifteenth year, this regular Adelaide Fringe Festival event is *the* showcase exhibition for graduating artists from South Australia's major tertiary art schools.

For the next three weeks, twenty-eight artists will be showcasing their works across a wide range of creative disciplines including ceramics, drawing, installations, jewellery, moving image, painting, photography and sculpture.

At last night's opening gala, five outstanding artists were recognised, presented with awards valued at more than \$11,000.

The Hill Smith Gallery / Helpmann Academy Friends Award was presented to Brooke Randall from the South Australian School of Art. The \$4,000 award provides travel and expenses for international professional development. Brooke's video installation work – *May Contain Stylised Violence* – explores modern society's ideal of beauty.

Adelaide City Councillors Susan Clearihan and Sandy Wilkinson judged and awarded Astra Parker from the Adelaide College of the Arts the City of Adelaide Award - valued at \$3,000 - for her mild steel sculpture *Cell Formation*.

The Councillors also presented Scott James from the South Australian School of Art a \$1,000 acquisitive award for his video projection *Weightless, Endless, Faithless*. Scott's work will now be exhibited on a site of the City Council's choosing.

The Raffin Prize, valued at \$3,000 and an acquisitive award, was presented to ceramic artist Klaus Gutowski from the Adelaide College of the Arts for his work *Epilogue of the Abundance of Beauty; Mary-go-round*, which now becomes part of a significant private collection.

Michelle Jones from the Adelaide Central School of Art was presented with the \$1,000 Adelaide Art Society Award for her series of oils on canvas *Consumed*. The prize is presented to an artist working in the medium of drawing or painting.

The opening night also featured presentation of the ever-popular Backers' Prize, which was awarded to Elizabeth Hetzel from the South Australian School of Art, who receives a \$250 book voucher from Imprints Bookshop. Partner school representatives including security guards, art suppliers and facility managers, who have supported the artists behind the scenes during their studies, are responsible for selecting this award.

The Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition is unique in Australia for the high standard of work it showcases. The exhibition features selected artwork by graduates from the Academy's four visual arts partner schools: Adelaide Central School of Art; Adelaide College of the Arts, TafeSA; South Australian School of Art, UniSA; Vizarts, O'Halloran Hill, TafeSA.

The Helpmann Academy is most grateful for the support it receives from its platinum sponsor ETSA Utilities, and the Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition 2010 sponsors: Wirra Wirra, Heineken Lion Australia and The Smelly Cheese Shop.

**For further information contact Chris Bull, Helpmann Academy Marketing Manager, on (08) 8463 5015 or 0425 615 233**

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