

26 February

South Australia's freshest visual arts talent  
**Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition 2009**

27 February to 22 March  
Hours: 10:30am - 4.30pm daily  
Admission is **FREE**

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

The 2009 Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition was opened this evening by Hon John Hill MP, Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts. More than 1000 guests were in attendance as some of the freshest new arts talent South Australia has to offer was revealed.

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

For the next three weeks, twenty-three artists will be showcasing their works across a wide range of artistic disciplines including ceramics, glass, installations, jewellery, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture and textiles.

At this evening's opening gala, five outstanding artists were recognised, presented with awards worth more than \$11,000.

The Hill Smith Gallery / Helpmann Academy Friends Award was presented to Anna Austin from Adelaide Centre for the Arts (TafeSA). The \$4000 award provides travel and expenses for international professional development.

Gallery Director Sam Hill Smith said, "Anna's work shows a fascination with mezzotint – a very old technique that Anna has brought into new focus and made her own."

Adelaide City Councillors Clearihan and Wilkinson judged and awarded Amy Baker from the Adelaide Central School of Art the City of Adelaide Award, valued at \$3000, for her work *Laminate Horse*. The Councillors thought that Amy's work was very beautiful and clearly demonstrated the horse as a metaphor for human endeavour.

The judges also wish to award a High Commendation to Luke Victory from the Adelaide Central School of Art for his paintings *Lady in Hiding*, offering him an opportunity to hold an exhibition in the Town Hall to coincide with the timing of the 2010 Adelaide Film Festival.

The Raffin Prize, valued at \$3000 and an acquisitive award, was presented for the first time at this year's exhibition, and was awarded to glass artist Tiffany Isterling from the South Australian School of Art (UniSA) for her work *Line and Lineage*, which now becomes part of a significant private collection.

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 Henry Jock Walker 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 Centre for 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 Graduation Exhibition 2009 sponsors: Vilis, Coriole Vineyards and The Smelly Cheese Shop.

**For further information contact Chris Bull, Helpmann Academy Marketing Manager, on (08) 8463 5015 or 0425615233**