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May 21

## Kim Buck wins \$5,000 Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Award

South Australia's top award for an arts graduate – the \$5,000 Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Award – has been won by emerging visual artist Kim Buck.

Kim will be presented with her award at the Helpmann Academy's Maestros & Apprentices fund raising dinner on Friday May 21 at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

Through its sponsorship of the State's leading award for an arts graduate, Bendigo and Adelaide Bank aims to provide meaningful support for talented South Australians pursuing a career in the arts. The award-winner is chosen from a select field of outstanding 2009 graduates from each of South Australia's major arts institutions: Adelaide College of the Arts (TAFE SA), Adelaide Central School of Art, Elder Conservatorium of Music (University of Adelaide), Flinders Screen Production and Drama Centre (Flinders University), South Australian School of Art (UniSA) and Vizarts, O'Halloran Hill (TAFE SA).

Graduating from the South Australian School of Art in 2009, Kim's work has been shown in group and solo exhibitions across Adelaide over the past three years. Kim's distinctive style takes drawing to a new level with its extraordinary precision and immaculate composition. Her conceptual depth and practical discipline have resulted in artworks of remarkable power. Kim was a Finalist in the prestigious National Youth Self Portrait Prize, with her work *Armed and Empty Handed* on display at the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra in 2009.

Kim was selected for the Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition 2010, was the winner of the Limestone Coast Art Prize and was recently named by *The Australian* as one of the most collectible emerging artists in Australia. Her first national exhibition will be at Michael Reid Gallery in Sydney in December.

"The judging for this year's award was, as always, extremely difficult; the standard of finalists was exceptional. Kim's distinctive talent as an artist is already being recognised by astute art lovers and collectors, and we are very proud to support and encourage her future success," says Richard Fennell, Chief Financial Officer, Bendigo and Adelaide Bank. "We take great pride in supporting local communities, business and the arts, creating a brighter future for South Australians and in particular our young people. We wish Kim every success in her career."

Proceeds from the Maestros & Apprentices black-tie dinner – this year themed *Arts Angels* - provide significant benefits to students and recent graduates from the Helpmann Academy's partner institutions, by assisting with funding for projects, facilitating visiting artists, student exchanges and creating performance and exhibition opportunities both in Australia and abroad. This glamorous night has grown enormously in popularity since it began in 1996, and is a showcase of the very best of South Australia's food, wine and emerging creative talent.

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