

Talented Artists Awarded 2007 Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition

23 February to 18 March 2007

Drill Hall, Torrens Parade Ground
King William Road, Adelaide

Opening Hours Monday to Saturday 11.30am–4.30pm / Sunday 2–4.30pm

Now in its twelfth successful year the landmark Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition continues its tradition of showing the talents of the State's top graduating artists in a diverse and impressive exhibition of over 100 artworks.

Christie Anthoney, Director of the 2007 Adelaide Fringe Festival, opened the **2007 Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition** last night, welcoming well over a thousand guests and the twenty-six talented exhibiting artists.

Four highly creative and innovative graduate artists were recognised at the opening with awards worth over \$7,000.

The **Hill Smith Gallery/Malaysia Airlines Travel Award**, now in its ninth year, was presented to Jessica Mara from Adelaide Central School of Art. The award, valued at over \$3,000, provides travel and expenses for the artist to undertake professional development overseas.

Gallery Director, Sam Hill Smith enjoyed the variety of Jessica's works that ranged from large and small paintings to smaller sculptural works. "The continuity that weaved through each piece shows that Jessica is not just a painter, but is able to explore a range of mediums effectively. She has a high level of creative and technical command."

The **City of Adelaide Award** winner Lorelei Siegloff, Adelaide Centre for the ARTS was recognised for her work *Banquet I* and *Banquet II* which incorporated film projection onto oil on canvas. The Adelaide City Council judges were impressed with its innovation and originality. Lorelei receives \$3,000 to mount a solo exhibition within the Adelaide CBD, in a non-traditional exhibition space.

In addition, the Adelaide City Council judging panel commended Guy Bottroff, Adelaide Centre for the ARTS for his large sculptural work *A Model Family*, which depicts a 1956 family in the format of a traditional model aeroplane kit.

The newly established **Adelaide Art Society Award** was awarded to Jeremy Piert, Vizarts, O'Halloran Hill. The award for an artist working in the medium of drawing or painting is a prize of \$1,000 and the opportunity to exhibit at the Grain Store

Studios along with the use of the studios for three months as an artist in residence. The Adelaide Art Society judging panel said: “Jeremy’s work is an exciting mixed media style which embraces the whole painting process. We look forward to working with Jeremy throughout 2007.”

In the tradition of the Archibald Art Prize ‘Packing Room Prize’, the opening night also revealed the inaugural **Backers’ Prize** which was awarded to Guy Bottroff who received a \$250 book voucher from Dark Horse bookshop. Chosen by eight partner school representatives including security guards, art suppliers and facility managers, who have supported the artists behind the scenes during their studies.

Attendees at the exhibition opening had the opportunity to vote for their favourite artist in the Peoples’ Choice Award sponsored by **Peter Walker Fine Art**. Votes will be taken throughout the exhibition and announced after its close on Sunday 18 March.

The Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition features selected artwork from twenty–six outstanding graduates from the Helpmann 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.

Artworks are exhibited in a variety of mediums including painting, photography, glass, jewellery, video, ceramics, drawing and sculpture.

The **2007 Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition** is an Adelaide Fringe Festival registered event. Entry is free.

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