

*Outstanding Artists Awarded*

## 2008 Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition

**22 February to 16 March**

Hours: 11am–4.30pm daily

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

**Anthony Steel, Arts Consultant and former Adelaide Festival Director opened the 2008 Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition last night, welcoming over a thousand guests.**

Now in its thirteenth successful year the Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition is the landmark exhibition for graduates of South Australia's tertiary art schools.

Twenty-four talented graduate artists were selected for the impressive 2008 exhibition with five outstanding artists recognised at the opening with awards worth over \$8,000.

The **Hill Smith Gallery/Malaysia Airlines Travel Award** was presented to Billal EL-Youssef from Adelaide Centre for the Arts for his photographic works which focus on the oppression of Muslims within their own country. The award, valued at over \$3,000, provides travel and expenses for the artist to undertake professional development overseas.

Gallery Director Sam Hill Smith was impressed by the concept and skill Billal showed in his work and said, "Billal has used photography to convey ideas more often expressed in another medium such as painting."

The **Adelaide City Council Award** winner Tushar Wahab from the South Australian School of Art was recognised for his photographic work which suggests brand identity has taken the place of our personas. The Adelaide City Council judges said, "We responded to the latent construct of what is perceived to be needed in order to launch ourself into the public eye".

Tushar 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 awarded a \$1,000 acquisitive prize to Adele Booth (Adelaide Centre for the Arts) for *The Post Building Project*, an interactive work involving the public posting fallen samples of city buildings for the creation of a cityscape-based installation.

The **Adelaide Art Society Award** was presented to Lorelei Siegloff from the South Australian School of Art. The award for an artist working in the medium of drawing or painting is a cash 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 opening night also featured the **Backers' Prize** awarded to glass artist Kristel Britcher 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, choose the award.

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 the exhibition close.

The Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition features selected artwork by twenty-four 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, new media, ceramics, drawing, textiles and sculpture.

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