

Well, we are almost half way through 2005 with many wonderful events happening for the gallery's artists whom we are very proud of. Our exhibitions for 2005 show great diversity within contemporary Australian art, something for everyone. We would love to see you frequent the gallery as often as you can, you are always welcome. Exhibitions are not only for collectors, but also for the pleasure and enjoyment of everyone. We are here for you, and want you to explore and be as excited about contemporary art as we are!

Nellie Castan

In March we added a new member to our team. **Olivia Poloni** has joined us as assistant manager working five days a week. Olivia has a background in visual culture and is currently completing her Masters of Art Curatorship at Melbourne University. Her scholarship is in contemporary art and she is very excited to be working with a stable of artists who are so significant to the Australian contemporary art scene.

Stephen Haley has been exceptionally busy over the last year completing his PhD. His exhibition *After Reflection* will include his new giant projected two screen, animated 3D works. 20 May - 11 June, Margaret Lawrence Galleries at VCA, 40 Dodds Street, Southbank.

Louise Paramour has recently returned from her Arts Victoria funded studio residency in Rotterdam. Louise's first solo exhibition at Nellie Castan Gallery will be in February 2006 and will no doubt encompass her experiences in Europe.

Megan Walch has also enjoyed a studio residency in Thailand through AsiaLink. Megan has an inspired exhibition planned for us this November.

Congratulations on these major acquisitions:

Craig Easton's *Phibes* by the National Gallery of Victoria, **Prudence Flint's** *A Fine Romance #12* and **Darren Siwes's** *Australopithecus* by BHP Billiton and **Gordon Hookey's** *Deadly Game of Death* by the Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation.

Tremendous prizes and competitions can be boasted about. In January four of our artists were finalists in Bendigo Gallery's Arthur Guy Memorial prize: **S.Haley, L.Paramor, P.Flint** and **D.Wardle**. Our artists selected for this years Savage Club biennial exhibition are **P.Metcalf, T.Lloyd, S.Haley, D.Wardle** and **C.Firth-Smith**.

Congratulations to **Annette Bezor**, a finalist in this year's Archibald Prize and to **Irene Wellm**, a finalist in the Keith Murdoch Travelling Studio prize. **Tony Lloyd** won the Conrad Jupiters Art prize People's choice award and **Prudence Flint** has received a City of Melbourne Arts Grant enabling her exhibition *The Library Series* at the City Library Art Space in October. Overseas news has **Darren Wardle** invited by curator Peter Zellner to exhibit in *Empires* in Los Angeles at the end of May.

2005 opening dates to mark in your diary:

Marina Strocchi: painting	2 June
Nicole Durling: sculpture	30 June
David Ray: ceramics	30 June
Penelope Long: painting	28 July
Penelope Davis: photography	18 August
Robert Doble: painting	15 September
Megan Walch: painting	13 October
Chris Bond: painting	10 November

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