

Victorian College of the Arts
Media Release 2008
Thursday 28 August

STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 7PM, THURSDAY 28 AUGUST

The \$10,000 Wallara Travelling Scholarship 2008 Winner

The **Victorian College of the Arts** and **Wallara Asset Management** today announced **KAORI KATO** the winner of the prestigious **Wallara Travelling Scholarship 2008**. Since 2001, this \$10,000 Scholarship has been awarded annually to third year undergraduate students in VCA Art, providing the winner with a unique opportunity for travel to stimulate their work and practice before returning to study.

Kaori Kato is a third year VCA Art drawing student. An international student from Japan, she intends to travel to Europe next year in order to compare the artistic links and movements between Asia, Australia and Europe. First up she intends to use the scholarship to travel to the world's premier international art show for modern and contemporary works *Art Basel*, in Switzerland. In her art practice, Kaori investigates patterns found in nature and she will use her time in Switzerland to study the landscape, discovering new shapes and compositions to inspire and motivate her further artistic development. She will then spend time in Italy investigating the patterns and shapes from historical buildings and architecture, through her art practice of drawing, paper folding and sculpture. At the end of her trip Kaori will attend the Venice Biennale 2009.

Peter Wetherall, Managing Director Wallara Asset Management, says, "Wallara is proud to be associated with the Victorian College of the Arts in offering the Wallara Travelling Scholarship. Travel offers the reward of rich experiences and the stimulation of different cultures and environments. It will also provide the opportunity to visit some of the world's best galleries and museums. Our sincere hope is that this Scholarship will prove to be a catalyst, in some way, to a young artist achieving his or her full creative potential.

Jan Murray, Acting Head, VCA Art, says, "The judges unanimously agreed that Kaori Kato's work expresses a love and a strong sympathy for the medium of paper with an inventive exploration of paper folding producing arresting works that are spatially ambitious yet very poetic. Kaori Kato is based in the drawing program and is an international student from Japan who is clearly influenced by the cultural tradition of origami."

An exhibition of work from all 2008 scholarship finalists will be on show at the VCA Margaret Lawrence Gallery on **Friday 29 & Saturday 30 August**. This year's finalists were Stephanie Cheek, Claire Gallagher, Melanie Irwin, Rachel Joy, Kaori Kato, Alesh Macak, Taree Mackenzie, Margaret Manchee, Lily Martin, Judith Perfect, Tyrone Renton, Ilia Rosli, Rohan Schwartz, Victoria Stamos, Michael Staniak and Simon Zoric.

The Wallara Travelling Scholarship is an acquisitive award - the winning work is acquired by Wallara Asset Management. Judges for this year's award were Charles Nodrum, Merrin Eirth, Domenico de Clario, Jan Murray and Peter Wetherall.

Kaori Kato was presented with her award on Thursday 28 August by **David Hansen**, Consultant, Paintings Department, Sotheby's.

The Wallara Travelling Scholarship 2008 Exhibition: 12-5pm, Friday 29 and Saturday 30 August
VCA Margaret Lawrence Gallery, 40 Dodds Street, Southbank. T: 03/ 9685 9400

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