



Victorian College of the Arts  
Thursday 30 August

## ***The ANZ Visual Arts Award 2007 and The ANZ Visual Arts Award (People's Choice) 2007***

### ***Artist Statement: Penelope Davis***

I make moulds and casts and use cameraless techniques to produce photographic images. I place clear resin casts of objects on photographic paper, then expose them to coloured light to produce photograms. The final images are not simple photographs but record a process - a chain of transformations and inversions - that creates the trace of an object many steps removed from its origin. These analogue photographic procedures result in an image that belies a simple conception of photography as a direct, indexical reference, and play with some of the procedures and assumptions central to photographic practice.

Some of my recent works use books as a central motif. They play with a range of associations common to books and photography – both are visual mediums and repositories of personal and collective memory. Like photography itself, the working process transforms the substance of the original referent into something other - a ghostly, absent shadow of itself.

### ***Artist Statement: Christina Markin***

When looking at images from the Hubble telescope, I cannot help but feel our insignificance in the greater scheme of things. Seeing galaxies, nebulas and the birth and death of stars so far off it boggles the mind to try and comprehend the distance. It raises questions in me of navigation and mapping, not just of space, but also of humanity. We have advanced our technology so quickly that we can map and navigate our environment that is invisible to the human eye. From all this, the bigger question of where are we trying to navigate ourselves to, and how we map our existence bothers me. Concepts of navigation and mapping are the focal point of my work within the context of space and all its implications, using images taken from the Hubble.

These Hubble images are so fantastic by nature that it is sometimes difficult to conceive of them as part of living reality. The cosmos is likely something that most people don't think about often in their day to day lives, visually at least. Thus, these Hubble images are not only beautiful pictures but are invitations to the viewer to step out of daily life and consider the implications of space. Using references of navigation and mapping, I aim to provide a platform from which the viewer is able to reflect in a personal way, inviting them to consider their personal beliefs and experiences.