



Victorian College of the Arts
Media Release 2007
Monday 10 September

Embargoed until 7.15pm Monday 10 September 2007

The \$ 10,000 Wallara Travelling Scholarship 2007 Winner

The **Victorian College of the Arts** and **Wallara Asset Management** today declared **Belle Bassin** the winner of the prestigious **Wallara Travelling Scholarship 2007**. 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.

Belle Bassin is a third year VCA Art drawing student. She intends to use the scholarship to travel to Egypt and Jordan to further her interest in the areas of paganism and the ancient cultures of the Middle East. She will then spend three months reflecting on this experience while making work in Bologna, Italy a site of great significance for her current research into Neo-Baroque art practices. Belle will finish up her travels with a visit to 'Art 39 Basel', the Swiss art fair.

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.

Associate Professor Su Baker, Head of VCA Art, says, "The Scholarship will provide Belle Bassin with the invaluable experience of travel before she moves into the next stage of her professional development. Being involved in this exhibition is a great privilege and on behalf of the staff and students of VCA Art I want to thank Peter for his company's generosity and his ongoing interest in the creative progress of our students."

An exhibition of work from all 2007 scholarship finalists will be held at the VCA Margaret Lawrence Gallery from Monday 11 until Friday 15 September. This year's finalists were: Santina Amato, Belle Bassin, Electra Foley, Kim Howells-Ng, Amelia Johannes, Russell Kitchen, Jessica Kritzer, Bonnie Lane, Trica Lim, Alasdair McLuckie, Rosemary Miller, Tully Moore, Mutsumi Nozaki, Ayako Oshima, Hannah Raisin, Hannah Scott-Stevenson, Kristen Steegstra, Julia Theobalt and Kellie Wells.

The Wallara Travelling Scholarship is an acquisitive award - the winning work is acquired by Wallara Asset Management. Judges for this year's award were Jon Cattapan, Vic Majzner, Jan Murray and Peter Wetherall.

Belle was presented with her award on Monday 10 September by **Frances Lindsay**, Deputy Director, National Gallery of Victoria.

The Wallara Travelling Scholarship 2007 Exhibition will run from **Monday 11 to Friday 15 September** at the VCA Margaret Lawrence Gallery, 40 Dodds Street, Southbank. T: 03/ 9685 9400
Gallery Hours: Wednesday to Saturday 12-5pm

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