

23 March 2015

## Annual SACE Art Show awards celebrate young and emerging artists and designers

South Australia's young and emerging artists and designers gathered at Light Square Gallery on Friday night (20 March) to preview the SACE Art Show 2015 and take part in the event's annual awards ceremony.

The inaugural UniSA Enterprising Award was presented to Seaton's Omid Vojdani for his three-piece series inspired by super-realism entitled *'Dynamic Sculptures'*. Omid said his work involved the melding of contemporary visual art and design.

"I believe the gap between visual art and design has become blurred and I tried to reflect this in my work by dismantling the barriers," Omid said.

In selecting the winner, the judging panel, led by Dr Andrew Welch, Program Director, Bachelor of Visual Arts at UniSA, identified a piece that adopted an innovative and leading edge approach to art and design.

Other awards and winners on the night were:

- Poster Award, sponsored by the Minister for Youth - **Jordan Pokorny** - *'Metal and Dust'*
- Regional Encouragement Award, sponsored by the Minister for Youth - **Ryan Varga** - *'Myself in Context to Year 12'*
- Regional Encouragement Award, sponsored by the Minister for Youth - **Eliza Wuttke** - *'Gliding Light'*
- Graphic Arts Supplies Encouragement Award (Digital/New Media) - **Bonnie Crofts**, *'The Channel of Perception'*
- Graphic Arts Supplies Encouragement Award (Photography) - **Pasquale Rossi** - *'The Light'*
- Graphic Arts Supplies Encouragement Award (Design) - **Stephanie Cruse** - *'Rose Hill'*
- Eckersley's Encouragement Award (Art) - **Vanessa Leak**, - *'Never Mundane'*
- Eckersley's Encouragement Award (Art) - **Murtaza Hussaini** - *'Untitled'*
- Eckersley's Encouragement Award (Art) - **Ella Michele** - *'The Lacking'*

The remaining major award – the Community Award, sponsored by Credit Union SA – will be decided next month. For the first time in the Show's 33-year history, visitors have an opportunity to vote for their favourite piece and go in the running for a prize valued at \$500.

SACE Board Chief Executive, Dr Neil McGoran, said the SACE Art Show has been designed to inspire and encourage current and future SACE art and design students.

"Thousands of students will visit over the next five weeks from across the State to ponder, be stimulated, and to gain inspiration for their own work," Dr McGoran said.

"The Show also aims to increase awareness about how SACE art and design subjects can be used as stepping stones to higher education and career pathways," he said.

“Indeed, many of the young artists and designers here tonight are now moving towards careers in fashion, architecture, animation, graphic design, and other creative industries,” Dr McGoran said.

“This has been the case for more than 30 years – since 1982, this event has displayed works from senior secondary students who have gone on to become leaders in the arts, in South Australia and around the world,” he added.