

2007 Adelaide Bank Award Winner Presented

By Lynda Allen

South Australia's top award for an arts graduate was announced on Friday 18 May at the Helpmann Academy's annual Maestros & Apprentices Fundraising Dinner.

Bachelor of Visual Art (Honours) graduate Deborah Prior was presented with the 2007 Adelaide Bank Award, worth \$5,000 at this year's Maestros & Apprentices Fundraising Dinner.

Deborah is a particularly outstanding graduate from Adelaide Central School of Art and received a High Distinction for her degree. She was awarded three scholarships to study at the school and earlier this year was the recipient of the Ruth Tuck Visual Arts Scholarship.

Deborah left Adelaide two days after receiving the award to take up the scholarship for three months study at The Slade School of Fine Art in London.

Using a diverse range of media Deborah's art practice is focused on the experience of being a young female in contemporary society.

Her recent work has utilised both the physical and symbiotic notions of the bride and the bathroom to address issues of gender and power relationships, the female body, physical and spiritual purity, and societal acceptance and/or rejection



2007 Adelaide Bank Award Winner Deborah Prior

Photograph: Lynda Allen

of particular modes of behaviour displayed by women.

Through its sponsorship of the annual Adelaide Bank Award, Adelaide Bank aims to provide meaningful support for talented South Australians seeking a career in the arts.

"Deborah is a unique, diverse and talented artist who has shown great commitment to the local artistic community. Adelaide Bank is pleased to recognise Deborah's dedication to produce such insightful work – and to see the rewards emerging

for her," said Anthony Baum, Chief General Manager of Wealth at Adelaide Bank.

The Adelaide Bank Award was chosen from seven outstanding 2006 arts graduates, from each of South Australia's major arts institutions: Adelaide Centre for the ARTS, Adelaide Central School of Art, Elder Conservatorium of Music, Flinders Drama and Screen Centres, South Australian School of Art and Vizarts, O'Halloran Hill.

Deborah will exhibit work at the Project Space, Contemporary Art Centre of South Australia from 16 October to 9 December this year. The exhibition *Maladies and Remedies* will be presented with Adelaide Central School of Art graduate, Julia Robinson.



Bathe
Drawing by Deborah Prior



Wedding Night
Drawing by Deborah Prior