



The Jennie Thomas Travelling Art Scholarship provides an opportunity for students to gain primary research and inspiration during their Honours year of study. This award was implemented in 2003 and is given to students who have a clear vision of their practice and a passion for what they do.

Jennie Thomas started her career as an educator at Newcastle Teacher's College which was made possible after receiving a Commonwealth Scholarship. What followed was a challenging but satisfying career in migrant and refugee education as a teacher, administrator and lecturer.

After her husband Philip Emlyn Thomas (known as 'Em') passed away in 2001, Jennie decided to endow scholarships and fund a number of important research programs to honour his life and work. Jennie chose to fund areas that interested both of them, such as Health, Music, and Environmental Studies.

The Jennie Thomas Travelling Art Scholarship is designed to encourage art students to experience other places and cultures.

The scholarship is awarded to an applicant for a special spark of passion and a desire to achieve their dream, rather than a particular skill or creativity in a chosen medium.

By donating scholarships and funding for research through the University of Newcastle Foundation, students are encouraged by Jennie to fulfill their ambitions as they embark on their chosen careers.

Jennie says, "It has been an amazing experience for me to see how a gift in the form of a donation can make such a difference. It is my sincere hope that others will join with me and, through the Foundation, contribute in a positive way to the goals and dreams of students, as our whole community will benefit."

IMAGES INSIDE

Abbey Cecil *Perceivable Improvements*
quotation from ArtsHealth theoretical research

Leasha Craig *Endless Cycle* 2011 ceramic, balsa wood and acrylic on canvas, 140cm x 100cm

Michelle Gearin *Bull's Children* (detail) 2010 oil on paper, 160 x 140cm

Amy Hill *Waste of Paint VIII* 2011 digital photograph, body paint on skin

Sylvia Ray *Flap my Lips* (detail) 2011 porcelain, metal and fishing line, 70 x 130cm round

Rachael Ireland *The Enchanted Bedroom #5* 2011 photograph, dye sublimation print on ivory satin fabric 90 x 90 cm

the *Jennie Thomas Traveling Art Scholarship* and the *Gandhi* exhibitions continue until 21 May

THE UNIVERSITY
GALLERY

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OPEN Wednesday – Saturday 12 noon – 6pm or by appointment



2011 Jennie Thomas Travelling Art Scholarship



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA



Outsourcing discourse (the art of conversation is going elsewhere) 2011
Sandra Lee Brown

- winner, 2005 Jennie Thomas Travelling Art Scholarship
Installation (detail) earthenware paperclay, black glaze, copper wire, tacks

Exhibition Dates
4 - 21 MAY 2011

THE UNIVERSITY
GALLERY

“Engaging with visual stimuli can influence our thought patterns and how we process emotions; contributing to our ability to heal and be healthy, physically and mentally.”

Abbey Cecil

The visible environment impacts on our state of mind. Engaging with visual stimuli can influence our thought patterns and how we process emotions; contributing to our ability to heal and be healthy, physically and mentally.

The hospital as a healing environment is paramount to contemporary society. My thesis will examine how the inclusion of art in hospitals benefits patients, visitors and staff.

By way of investigating theoretical research and the practical application of art-health integration into the hospital system, I will explore the efficacy and implications of using art to create conditions and an expressive medium with which to alleviate physical and mental ailments and promote holistic wellbeing.

Leasha Craig

I would describe myself as a painter-sculptor with a strong passion for both disciplines. For my thesis I will be exhibiting both 2D and 3D works accompanied with audio. This work will be my interpretation of mental illnesses. I hope to make this installation a holistic and unique experience for the audience, providing a

personal space, a place for the audience to contemplate the issues addressed in my work. My research will include; psychology of colour, aesthetics and sound, and also artists who have influenced me, artists who have depicted emotions and mental illnesses and researched the same topics.



Hence, given the opportunity to, I would love to travel throughout Europe where some of the artists who have influenced me lived, studied and exhibited. Such greats as; Auguste Rodin, Pierre Bonnard, the painter of feelings, Jacques Lipchitz, his work reflected the joys and sorrows of his life, Edvard Munch, themes of anxiety and depression are expressed so powerfully in his work and Wassily Kandinsky he saw music in terms of colour. I would finish my travels in Germany, where the Documenta Exhibition we held in June 2012, this highly regarded exhibition of contemporary art only takes place every five years, this truly would be a golden opportunity to view contemporary works.

Michelle Gearin

Firstly, I propose to travel to Broken Hill in November 2011 to view the work of Francisco Goya. The Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery will

be showing an early edition of ‘Los Caprichos’, a set of eighty etchings first published in 1799. This work has been one of the most influential series of graphic images on my recent art practice. Broken Hill offers the raw intensity and duality of the landscape coupled with the emotional intensity of Goya’s work.



I like the theme of duality very much. I was raised on a farm outside Tamworth and was overwhelmed by the kindness and cruelty of man and nature. The exaggerated dynamics of the human/animal relationship have become central to my own artistic explorations.

Secondly, I propose to travel to Melbourne in March 2012 to view the work of William Kentridge.

This Major Retrospective surveys nearly three decades of his work and its investigations of how meaning accrues through making. I have a deep interest in how content evolves through process. Recently, I’ve started experimenting with drawing films. I wish to make work where the drawn line informs every other media I use and I believe this experimentation will be my artistic focus for the foreseeable future.

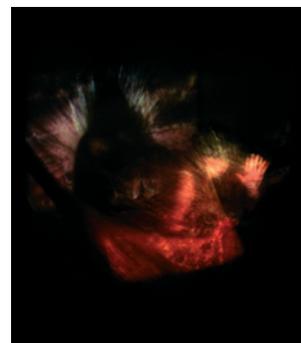
Amy Hill

Quite simply, I’m obsessed. I have this fascination, this fixation with the naked female form. It infatuates me. In my eyes there is nothing more beautiful, honest and strange than a naked body, so why not use them as a canvas? I take great joy in watching the way paint moves over skin, experimenting with how it drips and flows. Painting the body brings out details that are often overlooked, while photographing the process enables me to create images showing the body the way I see it; both beautiful and utterly odd.



Rachael Ireland

The focus of my work is home and country, which in Australia inevitably raises questions of identity and belonging. Conceptually my work draws on how British culture has developed within Australia;



Sandra Lee Brown

Winner, 2005 Jennie Thomas Travelling Art Scholarship

RIGHT

Sandra Lee Brown
Drinking vessel for graffiti—
when words have gone, 2011
slip cast, MFQ clay



therefore I have proposed to travel to London with the financial support of the Jennie Thomas Travelling Art Honours Scholarship.

Whilst in London it is my intention to attend and participate in Australian Season, a series of exhibitions and events focusing on Australian art and culture. This experience will provide greater understanding of the relationship between Australia and England, which continues to inform art and influence culture within Australia.

Sylvia Ray

Much of my art making is for me essentially PLAY and together with my strong interest in Arts Health has led me to research the importance of play while studying for my Fine Art Honours Degree.

I like my art to be enjoyed and experienced through many senses and this has directed me to create interactive art.

The intention of my work is to be whimsical and uplifting and to highlight the importance of play.

Models I use for casting are family and friends with an interest in art making and who are willing participants. This gives the work a collaborative aspect.

Interested viewers are welcome to play with the work. My hope is that through interaction or play you will have a more rewarding experience.

