

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: HATCHED NATIONAL GRADUATE SHOW



Hatched: National Graduate Show 2015
2 May – 21 June

All PICA Galleries
Curated by Nadia Johnson
Opening: Friday 1 May 2015, 6pm

PICA's annual *Hatched: National Graduate Show* tracks the changing trends and developments in emerging contemporary art by providing an annual snapshot of the country's aesthetic ambitions, and a platform for the next generation of Australian artists.

This year 22 of Australia's best art schools and universities nominated 90 students for consideration by an illustrious selection panel consisting of Barry Keldoulis, Director of Sydney Contemporary art fair; Independent Curator Matthew Ngui; PICA Education Program Curator Laura Evans and *Hatched* Curator, Nadia Johnson.

The 35 artists selected, fresh out of art school and eager to embark on their professional careers, are now set to take over every space of the PICA building with their wild, intelligent and sensitive artworks. *Hatched 2015* is at times playful and sentimental, yet also offers a more contemplative and serious engagement with the topical issues of our time.



'On the first floor, performative endurance video works transport us into a private cinematic space and invite us to dance away in solitude. Just around the corner a thousand intricately cut paper skeletons scale the gallery walls whilst a video of a tumbling meteorite speaks of the global impact of human activity on the environment.'

- Curator Nadia Johnson

Over the years, *Hatched* has provided a critical springboard for a number of prolific Australian artists and artworld figures, including Nick Mitzevitch and David Noonan (1992), Shaun Gladwell (1997) and recently WA's George Egerton-Warburton (2009), amongst many others. Indeed, *Hatched* has become a rite of passage for Australia's next generation of artists, and provides an invaluable glimpse into emerging trends in contemporary artistic practice.

For the sixth year running, the Dr Harold Schenberg Art Prize of \$35,000 will be awarded to one outstanding *Hatched* artist to further invest in their career. The recipient of the prize for 2014, Zoe Kirkwood, has since gone on to exhibit internationally in New York, and will feature in PICA's very own salon and major group exhibition *Epic Narratives* later this year.

PICA is pleased to be working with the University of Western Australia and the trustees of the Dr Harold Schenberg bequest on this significant award for emerging artists. The winner of the Dr Harold Schenberg Art Prize will be announced on *Hatched*'s opening night, the 1st of May at 6.30pm.

For all media enquiries including hi-res image & interview requests please contact PICA Communications Manager Renae Coles via:

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PICA PERTH INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

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Images: Eliya Nikki Cohen, Love Eyes (detail), 2014. Broc Webster, 'Athanasia' (detail), 2014.