



Patricia PICCININI, *The Young Family* (detail), 2002, silicone, polyurethane, leather, human hair, plywood, 85 x 150 x 120 cm approx



SAMSTAG
MUSEUM

Media Release

Worlds (and worlds) of fantasy and imagination at the Samstag Museum of Art

The Samstag Museum of Art's season of excitement is set to continue, with two new exhibitions opening on 15 May and continuing until 24 July 2009. ***Colliding Worlds*** and ***Phantasia*** are extraordinary journeys of imagination and showcase the marvellous inventiveness of brilliant artists.

Colliding Worlds has been developed by the Samstag Museum exclusively for the 2009 Come Out Festival for young people, and celebrates the overall festival theme, inspired by a classic 1932 science fiction story – *When Worlds Collide*. The exhibition features works of wonderful imagination by several of Australia's leading contemporary artists – including Patricia Piccinini and Anna Platten, and Samstag alumni Pia Borg, Nicholas Folland, Hayden Fowler and Shaun Kirby.

Colliding Worlds exhibition curator and Samstag Museum director, Erica Green, thinks Adelaide audiences – young and old – are in for a very special treat. But she also warns the exhibition will challenge and possibly shock some people. She says, "the work of artists in this exhibition may seem fantastic or bizarre, and might even cause offence. But I believe that people value the challenging ideas of artists, and the new ways of looking they give us, particularly when they candidly portray society's underbelly, with all its flaws and fears".

The second exhibition – ***Phantasia**** – is an ultra-rich celebration of fantasy, through photography, that creates imaginary worlds where past and present collide. Vivid, complex and magical, the works in this exhibition abandon the traditional realm of the photographic – the real world – to conjure images of the fantastical. See Magdalena Bors' fairytale scenes, Alexia Sinclair's regal (and thoroughly sensual) great women of history, Simon Strong's most unusual futuristic, urban landscapes, and Andrew Mamo's potent and dreamlike visual meditations. A special feature in *Phantasia* are the strange landscapes of the imagination by South Australian artist Mark Kimber.

On Saturday 16 May, artists Nicholas Folland, Anna Platten and Mark Kimber will present **artist floor talks** in the Museum from 3pm. All welcome: RSVP samstagmuseum@unisa.edu.au

A substantial education resource, developed for the art museum by leading education consultant, John Neylon, is available on unisa.edu.au/samstagmuseum. John Neylon himself will present a special **teachers' professional development forum** on Friday 22 May from 2–3pm. All welcome, with bookings through Come Out Box office 08 8267 6920 or comeout.on.net/bookings.

Exhibition opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 11–5pm, Saturday & Sunday 2–5pm, or by appointment.

For further information about the *Colliding Worlds* and *Phantasia* exhibitions and talks, contact Erica Green on 08 8302 0870 or visit unisa.edu.au/samstagmuseum

* Phantasia is a touring exhibition of the Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney

