



Image: Khai LIEW and Bruce NUSKE, *Bruce cabinet* (detail), 2010, American white oak, oxidation fired porcellaneous stoneware, slip, stain, sgraffito decoration, photograph by Grant Hancock, courtesy the artists

Media Release

Adelaide artists **Khai Liew** and **Bruce Nuske** collaborate to present *Irrational and Idiosyncratic* at the Samstag Museum of Art in August and September, an exhibition of works inspired by the 19th-century European response to all things oriental.

Liew and Nuske share a deep and abiding interest in the Japanese aesthetic that culminated in the cult of beauty associated with the Aesthetic Movement in England, and its Italian variation, Decadentismo. The Aesthetic Movement placed aesthetic values in the foreground of human experience, seeing art as a supreme good in itself. Discarding narrative, minimising perspective, and eliminating detail, the Aesthetic Movement drew art closer to architecture, design and the decorative arts.

Working in different mediums (Liew is one of Australia's most respected furniture designers and Nuske an internationally recognised ceramic artist), both artists have a similar aesthetic vision and their collaborative output revels in a shared visual language. *Irrational and Idiosyncratic* presents a body of works exploring the materials of wood and clay, and the resulting dialogue between the two mediums.

Khai Liew is Adjunct Professor in the School of Art, Architecture and Design at the University of South Australia. As a furniture designer, Liew has established a discerning national and international clientele for work that is almost entirely site-specific or purpose-built. His work comes from personal interaction, meticulous craftsmanship and exploration of suitable materials, drawing on both traditional practices and technological advances.

Bruce Nuske is an alumnus of the University of South Australia. His ceramic practice is underscored by a meticulous eye for observation, an understanding of botany and zoology, and a passion for the possibilities of design – of form, function and decoration. Nuske has exhibited widely both in Adelaide and nationally, and internationally in countries such as Germany and the United Kingdom. His work is held in numerous private and public collections, including those of the Art Galleries of South Australia, Queensland and Western Australia, the National Gallery of Victoria and the Duke of Devonshire Collection in London.

***Irrational and Idiosyncratic* opens Friday 3 August and continues until Sunday 30 September 2012.**
Opening hours are Tuesday to Friday 11–5pm, Saturday and Sunday 2–5pm.

For further information contact Erica Green, Director, Samstag Museum of Art T 08 8302 0872, M 0438 821 239 or visit unisa.edu.au/samstagmuseum

***Irrational and Idiosyncratic* Events**

- OzAsia Celebration Event **6–8pm Thursday 13 September**