



Sarah DUYSHART, *Sift*, 2013, installation view, mixed media, dimensions variable, courtesy the artist

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2016 Samstag Scholarships announced

The University of South Australia is delighted to announce the **2016 Anne & Gordon Samstag International Visual Arts Scholarships**. The two recipients of the prestigious scholarships are Derek Sargent, from South Australia, and Sarah Duyshart, from Victoria.

Derek Sargent – a graduate of the South Australian School of Art, at the School of Art, Architecture and Design, University of South Australia – is a multi-disciplinary artist whose practice investigates themes of sexuality and identity. He says ... “my practice combines personal experience with research from queer theorists and the history of homosexuality in Western society.” Sargent will use his scholarship to study in the US, alongside interdisciplinary artists and noted theorists engaging with this area of practice.

Sarah Duyshart is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne. Her site-responsive works take the form of large meditative sound and sculptural installations that harness the physical and psychological tension innate to a space. Duyshart’s Samstag Scholarship will take her to Europe, where she will undertake “physical research of architectural and engineered structures in regions that are rich with antiquity”.

Erica Green, Director of the University’s **Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art**, which administers the scholarships program, says that the Samstag Scholarships are now approaching their twenty-fifth year. “It’s a truly wonderful benefaction and history of achievement”, she says. “Gordon Samstag’s remarkable generosity has now provided 130 scholars with unprecedented opportunities to develop their practice and advance their careers”.

Most importantly, she observes that, “Derek Sargent and Sarah Duyshart have some great and enviable experiences ahead of them, studying overseas supported by the well-funded Samstag Scholarship, which provides each artist a twelve-month living allowance of US \$45,000 (United States dollars), as well as travel expenses and the cost of institutional study fees at a leading international art school of their choice”.

The artist selectors for the 2016 Samstag Scholarships, comprised Mark Kimber (acting chair, and senior lecturer of the South Australian School of Art, University of South Australia); Louise Haselton (artist and lecturer also at the School of Art); and Mikala Dwyer, internationally exhibited artist and a celebrated former recipient of a Samstag Scholarship in 2005.

Kimber commended the two recipients, commenting, "The Samstag 2016 Scholarships have been awarded to Sarah Duyshart and Derek Sargent, two brilliantly innovative and conceptually unique artists that both challenge and expand the horizons of contemporary art in engagingly stimulating ways."

Adelaide-based arts writer, Rayleen Forester, has written short essays on Derek Sargent and Sarah Duyshart, available to read on the Samstag Program website, along with images of both artists' work and biographical information.

Samstag Scholarships are awarded by the University of South Australia on behalf of the Trustee of the estate of Gordon Samstag, the celebrated American artist who taught at the South Australian School of Art in the 1960s. Erica Green notes that, "despite the world-wide financial volatility affecting many benefactions, the Samstag Trustee's prudent management will ensure that the Samstag Scholarships continue in perpetuity".

The University of South Australia warmly congratulates Derek Sargent and Sarah Duyshart!

For further information contact

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Derek SARGENT, *Allure Me*, 2015, installation view, mixed media, dimensions variable, courtesy the artist, photo Grant Hancock