



Zoe KIRKWOOD, *The Screen Set Series*, 2015, installation view, CACSA Contemporary, photograph Che Chorley

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2017 Samstag Scholarships announced

Samstag 25th birthday Scholarship recipients were announced by University of South Australia's Chancellor Mr Jim McDowell on Thursday 13 October at the Samstag 25th birthday publication and exhibitions launch.

The University of South Australia is delighted to announce the **2017 Anne & Gordon Samstag International Visual Arts Scholarships**. The two recipients of the prestigious scholarships are **Zoe Kirkwood**, from South Australia, and **Jacqueline Felstead**, from Victoria.

The Scholarships provide each artist with a twelve-month living allowance of USD \$47,000, as well as travel expenses and the cost of institutional study fees at a leading international art school of their choice.

Zoe Kirkwood is a graduate of the South Australian School of Art, at the School of Art, Architecture and Design, University of South Australia whose practice explores the spatial qualities of painting and investigates its possibilities to move beyond the canvas and into the gallery space. Zoe's practice is situated within the art historical context of the *Bel Composto* principle popularised during the Baroque period, which blended painting, sculpture and architecture to create a single immersive work. She says, 'My works also draw on the aesthetics of the digital screen and contemporary popular culture to create an original hybrid that is spatially invasive and often take the form of large elaborate stage sets in which the idea of the painting can be extrapolated and dimensions can be manipulated'.

Jacqueline Felstead is a graduate of Monash University and is currently undertaking a PhD at the Victorian College of the Arts. She is a photo-media artist whose practice takes full advantage of cutting edge technology to 'replicate the near irreproducible states, such as rendering in 3D an hour of someone's time'. Simon Biggs, Director of the South Australian School of Art comments, 'Jacqueline Felstead's work particularly stood out due to its novelty of both process and outcome and the challenging nature of her approach to both how she technically creates her photographic representations and how that process unpacks the way we experience things as a function of both time and space'.

Erica Green, Director of the University's **Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art**, which administers the scholarships program, says that the Samstag Scholarships program, now in its twenty-fifth year, celebrates the awarding of no fewer than 138 scholarships, their total value exceeding ten million American dollars. 'It's a truly wonderful benefaction and history of achievement. Gordon Samstag's remarkable in perpetuity bequest has now provided unprecedented opportunities for Australian artists to develop their practice and advance their careers.'

Most importantly, she observes the 2016 scholars, 'Derek Sargent and Sarah Duyshart who are now just commencing their study respectively at Chelsea College of Arts, London, and Royal College of Art, also in London, have some great and enviable experiences ahead of them, studying overseas and supported by their well-funded Samstag Scholarship'.

The selection committee for the 2017 Samstag Scholarships, comprised Simon Biggs (Professor of Art, Director: South Australian School of Art, University of South Australia), Mark Kimber (Senior Lecturer of the South Australian School of Art, University of South Australia), and Nike Savvas, internationally exhibited artist and a celebrated former recipient of a Samstag Scholarship in 1996.

Of the committee's final selection, Nike Savvas commented, 'Zoe Kirkwood's practice was deemed exceptional in its complex and inventive approach to a contemporary discourse in painting' and 'Jacqueline utilises an imaginative and highly individual approach to achieve strong and engaging outcomes that continue to provoke reflection and curiosity'.

Melbourne-based arts writer and Project Producer at the Wheeler Centre, Amita Kirpalani, has written short essays on Zoe Kirkwood and Jacqueline Felstead, available 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.

The University of South Australia warmly congratulates Zoe Kirkwood and Jacqueline Felstead!

For further information contact

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Jacqueline FELSTEAD (left), *Matt* (detail), 2016, archival pigment print from 3D model, 110 cm x 140 cm; (right), *Iris* (detail), 2016, archival pigment print from 3D model, 110 cm x 140 cm, courtesy the artist