Flinders University Art Museum & City Gallery

MEDIA RELEASE
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Love affair revealed

Flinders University Art Museum & City Gallery presents an exposé on an enduring love affair between art and place occurring in one of South Australia’s most iconic regions, Eyre Peninsula - a visually compelling story of passion, commitment and belonging told for the first time.

This region, known to many as the West Coast, is one of the toughest places in South Australia in which to be an artist. However it gives much in return as a region, offering freedom from urbanised life, access to landscapes of spectacular beauty and traditional significance, and fostering a strong sense of belonging. The result of a year-long project initiated by Country Arts SA, curated by John Neylon and funded through Arts SA's ‘New Exhibitions Fund’, tough(er) love explores the complex relationships twelve ‘West Coast’ artists have forged with this place.

Comprising new work by Indigenous and non-Indigenous painters and sculptors – John Baily, Cindy Durant, Amanda Franklin, Siv Grava, Joylene Haynes, Karl James, Elma Lawrie, Verna Lawrie, Beaver Lennon, Leith O’Malley, Pungkai and John Turpie – the exhibition reflects the practices of those working out of larger population centres including Port Lincoln, Whyalla and Ceduna, as well as smaller regional communities.

tough(er) love has challenged participating artists to reflect on their practice to create works which offer insights about making art and their sense of place within the region and the wider art community. Strands of commonality run through the exhibition including representations and celebrations of country, individual and community histories, nature as inspiration, the impact of change and exploration of the inner life.

tough(er) love will be officially launched at Flinders University City Gallery on Friday 22 February 2013 at 6pm by Alex Reid, Group Executive Director, Arts and Cultural Affairs, Department of Premier and Cabinet. A public floor talk will be presented by exhibition curator John Neylon on Saturday 23 February 2013 at 2pm. tough(er) love is presented in association with the Adelaide Fringe Festival 2013.

Open to the public from Saturday 23 February 2013 and continuing until Sunday 28 April 2013. Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 11-4pm, Saturday and Sunday 12-4pm and closed on Public Holidays.

For further information contact:

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Cindy Durant, Bowl of Rain, 2010, kiln formed and lampworked glass, 95 x 480 diam mm

Beaver Lennon, The Head of the Bight (detail), 2012, synthetic polymer paint on canvas, 820 x 1060 mm