

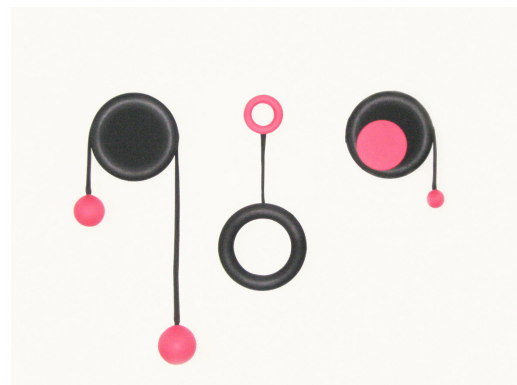
**MEDIA RELEASE**  
MU Student Union Ltd and  
George Paton Gallery present:



## *Crossing Boundaries* *The Journey From Teacher to Teaching Artist*

A collection of works by recent graduates of Melbourne University's Master of Teaching (Secondary, Art) program, who are navigating their place in the teaching profession

Curated by Purnima Ruanglertbutr



*Crossing Boundaries* displays more than 60 works of art by twenty-seven recently graduated secondary school Visual Art teachers who are exploring the realities of being an artist and a teacher, across diverse mediums.

Visual Art teachers are educators who carry the expectation that to perform well in the classroom, they must have a vibrant private art practice; in order to 'teach it' they also have to evidence that they can 'do it'. This can be a challenge, given the contrast between 'artist' and 'teacher' identities; the artist's freedom of practice and the teacher's regulated profession, and issues of time and space, which can thwart an artist's private practice.

Can we both teach and make art? Melbourne University's early-career 'teaching artists' exhibit their personal creativity, their immediate concerns regarding the transition from being a practicing artist to being a teacher, and the making and teaching of art as equal and essential to quality teaching. The artists perceive teaching and art-making as a mutually supportive commitment; how 'doing art' impacts the quality of their teaching and student learning, and how teaching inspires them to make art. Through their works of art and commentaries, the artists expose themselves to continued examination and critique, exhibiting a degree of reflexivity that is foundational to the continuing evolution of our craft; they speak to the quality of the next generation of educators.

*Crossing Boundaries* forms part of the *Teacher as Art-maker Project* (TAP) --- a significant research initiative and international first for Visual Art Education, providing for the first time, longitudinal data on teachers' participation in art production, perceptions of quality of teaching, and expectations of retention in the profession. The exhibition and research is supported by the *Melbourne Graduate School of Education*, which provides on-going support for its graduates, by our country's peak Visual Art Education professional body, *Art Education Australia*, and Victoria's successful subject professional body, *Art Education Victoria*. These innovative institutions are committed to furthering the quality of art education in schools and in research.

A full-colour exhibition catalogue is available with a curator's introduction and artists' statements that reveal the roles, which art-making plays in the artists' teaching careers.

**Contact:** Purnima Ruanglertbutr   [purnima.r@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:purnima.r@unimelb.edu.au)   0401 162 987

**IMAGES:** Claire Mooney, *Upon as well*, 2012   Samantha Horstman, *Teleology*, 2011   Alysia Rees, *Growth*, 2012

### GEORGE PATON GALLERY

Second floor, Union House, University of Melbourne

Gallery hours: 11am-5pm Mon to Fri 12-5pm Sat

Exhibition dates: 6-16 November, 2012

Exhibition opening night: Wednesday 7 November 5-7pm

Phone: 8344 5418 Email: [gpg@union.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:gpg@union.unimelb.edu.au)



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