

The 58th

BLAKE PRIZE

Exploring the religious and spiritual in art



4 September – 3 October 2009

Exhibition Talk *Out of this World*, Saturday, 5 September, 2 – 4pm, FREE RSVP (02) 9339-8744

Starting at the Art Gallery of New South Wales this tour will introduce the print works of William Blake (1757-1827) on view in *Printmaking in the Age of Romanticism* and will continue at the National Art School Gallery to consider Blake's legacy in relation to the work of Australian contemporary artists in *The 58th Blake Prize*.

Once called an 'unfortunate lunatic' the now legendary William Blake is regarded as one of the most important Romantic artists. His broad range of artistic and poetic innovations, his visionary imagination and engagement with the spiritual are discussed by **Josephine Touma, Coordinator of Public Programs** at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. In particular, visitors will have the chance to view Blake's *Illustrations from the Book of Job* (1825), a set of 21 engravings based on an earlier series of watercolours that incorporate both the biblical text and Blake's own verse.

Blake's ability to make work that profoundly integrated the personal and the universal inspired the concept for *The Blake Prize* which aims to present perspectives from all faiths and belief systems, encouraging contemporary artists to visualise and explore concepts of spirituality relevant to their individual experience. At the NAS Gallery **Akky van Ogtrop, curator and art historian** investigates how art works in this year's Blake Prize define and re-define this dialogue and question our knowledge and understanding of the current state of spiritual and religious exploration in our society. Finalists in this year's exhibition include **Adam Cullen, Adrienne Doig, Brent Harris, Locust Jones, Jasper Knight, Lindy Lee, Guy Maestri, Angelica Mesiti, Ms & Mr, Dean Sewell, Grant Stevens** and **Ken Yonetani**.

The 58th Blake Prize exhibition is presented in partnership with the Blake Society Ltd.

Itinerary

- 2:00pm Josephine Touma talk begins (meet at the Art Gallery of New South Wales foyer Art Gallery Road, The Domain)
- 2:40pm Transfer to the National Art School Gallery (transport not provided)
- 3:15pm Craig Judd talk begins (meet at the NAS Gallery, Forbes St, Darlinghurst)
- 4:00pm Talks conclude, refreshments will be available

NAS
GALLERY

MONDAY - SATURDAY, 10AM - 4PM
FORBES STREET DARLINGHURST
02 9339 8686
NASGALLERY@DET.NSW.EDU.AU



NATIONAL ART SCHOOL
SYDNEY • AUSTRALIA
FORBES STREET DARLINGHURST NSW 2010 AUSTRALIA
T [61 2] 9339 8744 www.nas.edu.au

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