



Image: BRIDGET CURRIE, *Regulators*, 2009, olive wood, plywood, spatial scent installation, photo by Sam Roberts, © the artist

Media Release

2011 Samstag Scholarships Announced For Immediate Release

The University of South Australia has announced the **2011 Anne & Gordon Samstag International Visual Arts Scholarships**. The University has awarded the prestigious scholarships – for twelve months study overseas in the visual arts commencing in 2011 – 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. A total of 120 Samstag Scholarships have now been awarded since 1992.

The two lucky scholarship recipients are **Christian Capurro**, a Melbourne-based conceptual artist who was featured in curator Robert Storr's 2007 Venice Biennale, and South Australian artist **Bridget Currie**, whose experimental art draws as much on domestic activities like cooking and gardening, as it does on performance and traditional sculptural mediums. They each receive a twelve months living allowance of US\$37,000 (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 Director of UniSA's **Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art**, which administers the scholarships program, notes that the Samstag Scholarships are not only unusually generous, but they are renowned for identifying artists of exciting talent, who progress to careers of high achievement. **Erica Green** says that "the Samstag Scholarships are golden passports to success, and they will provide Capurro and Currie the time and context to develop as professional artists and perhaps even build international careers." She also suggests that "despite the continuing international economic slump that has impacted so severely on arts bequests and charitable cultural funding – the Samstag Trustee has ensured stability and continuity of the Program through its prudent management."

Artist selectors for the 2011 Samstag Scholarships were Associate Professor John Barbour, Director of the South Australian School of Art; Louise Haselton, artist and lecturer at the School of Art; and Dr Peter Hill, Adjunct Professor of Fine Art at RMIT University, Melbourne.

Dr Hill is an internationally exhibited artist who is also recognised for his widely published writings on the visual arts. This year, Dr Hill has been commissioned to write short essays on Christian Capurro and Bridget Currie, available to read on the Samstag Program website, along with selected images by both artists and biographical information.

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