



Alex KERSHAW, *The Phi Ta Khon Project* (detail), 2008-2009  
Production still, courtesy the artist and GRANTPIRRIE, Sydney

## Media Release

# Inaugural 'Australia Council for the Arts and Anne & Gordon Samstag ISCP Residencies' announced For Immediate Release

The University of South Australia is proud to announce the inaugural grants awarded under the **Australia Council for the Arts and Anne & Gordon Samstag ISCP Residencies Program**, an experimental funding partnership established in 2009, between Australia's national arts funding agency and the University's prestigious Samstag Program.

The groundbreaking cultural partnership is designed to enhance development opportunities for Australian artists and help them build sustainable careers. The collaborative program provides well-funded annual studio residencies at the International Studio and Curatorial Program, New York (ISCP).

The two ISCP Residencies are awarded to **Benjamin Armstrong**, a Melbourne-based artist, whose intriguing sculptural work was recently seen in the 2010 Adelaide Biennale of Australian Art, and **Alex Kershaw**, one of Sydney's most compelling photo-media artists. They each receive a six-month residency at the International Studio and Curatorial Program (ISCP), New York – commencing from 2011 – and a supporting stipend and travel grant of \$25,000.

Besides enjoying an increased stipend as a result of the partnership, the selected artists also gain formal status as 'Samstag Scholars', a distinction widely prized by the Samstag alumni for its valuable professional cachet.

Short essays on Benjamin Armstrong and Alex Kershaw, commissioned from leading visual arts writer, Dr Peter Hill, are available on the Samstag Program website, along with selected images and biographical information. Benjamin Armstrong and Alex Kershaw now join Christian Capurro and Bridget Currie (recipients of the 2011 Anne & Gordon Samstag Visual Art Scholarships), as **2011 Samstag Scholars**.

The **Australia Council for the Arts and Anne & Gordon Samstag ISCP Residencies Program** is administered through the Visual Arts Board of the Australia Council, and is open to practising visual artists, craftspeople, designers and media artists. Information on the ISCP Residencies program is available at <http://www.unisa.edu.au/samstag/residency/default.asp>

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