



MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Environmentally aware designs rewarded with Alcorso prize

The \$5000 Claudio Alcorso Foundation Environment Prize has been awarded to furniture designer and UTAS graduate Chalit (Num) Kongsuwan for his elegant and environmentally aware designs.

Num, 33, completed a Masters of Fine Art and Design at the UTAS School of Art last year.

His striking furniture combines aspects of the traditional culture of his native Thailand and the technology of modern furniture design. He has created a unique style of contemporary furniture inspired by nature, culture and spirituality.

Num's designs aim to stimulate awareness of our personal responsibility to care for and live in harmony with the environment.

Professor Noel Frankham, Head of the School of Art, said Num has worked very hard as an international student to develop his skills with English and academic research.

"The awards and scholarships Num has won demonstrate his significant success and talent - we are very fortunate to have him studying and practising in Tasmania," Professor Frankham said.

The Claudio Alcorso Foundation established the Environment Prize in 2002 for students who have completed PhD, Masters, Honours or Graduate Diploma studies in any of the University's Schools. The winner's work must promote environmental awareness and responsibility.

University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Daryl Le Grew said the prize provided a fantastic opportunity for gifted students.

"The Tasmanian environment, the wilderness, the urban areas and the people, provide great inspiration to students to learn and to work toward ensuring we manage our resources for future generations.

"Tasmania is a place for innovative ideas and this prize provides recognition of the importance of environment. The University is pleased to be involved with the Foundation and the Claudio Alcorso Prize," Professor Le Grew said.

The Claudio Alcorso Foundation was established in October 2001 to celebrate the life of Tasmanian icon Alcorso, the founder of Moorilla Estate winery.

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Num's other awards and achievements:

- Won the first prize of the inaugural *Accommodation Services Acquisitive Art Prize 2007*, University of Tasmania, Hobart.
- Acquired Highly Commended Award from *Clarence Prize 2007 for excellence in furniture*, Clarence, Tasmania.
- Received the third prize, *Wat Bovornniwes monastery's examination a new Buddhist monk*, and the first prize in the subject of The Buddha's life, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Received a scholarship from *Thailand International Furniture Fair (TIFF)*, Bangkok, Thailand.