

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Examining disease through art

Art and science will combine in a new exhibition examining cancer through the lens of creativity.

Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, AM, Governor of Tasmania will open *Navigating the internal landscape: an artistic interpretation of disease* at 2pm tomorrow (**Saturday, 20 February 2016**). The exhibition will run in the Academy Gallery at Inveresk until 15 April.

Lead curator, Dr Malcom Bywaters from the Tasmanian College of the Arts, said the exhibition explored new ways of understanding cancer and how it impacts individuals and the community.

“Cancer is ever-present in our contemporary life, and it’s a foreboding presence; it’s the spectre of something going wrong with our cells, the basic building blocks of our bodies,” Dr Bywaters said.

“In this exhibition, artists are exploring the way that cancer can impact us physically and emotionally, and searching for new ways to communicate those impacts.

“Dr Kim Lehman has created an installation that uses video to communicate what his wife feels over time, following treatment for breast cancer.

“Danielle Thompson, a nurse, artist and PhD candidate, is using photography to explore the emotional side of physical pain.

“These are just two examples,” Dr Bywaters said. “Through this exhibition, together, we hope to add to the greater discussion about cancer.”

Supported by Cancer Council Tasmania, the exhibition has been curated by an interdisciplinary team at the University of Tasmania that encompasses art, education, health, engineering and business and economics.

The exhibition includes paintings, sculpture, photography, furniture, craft, video and mixed media.

Themes investigated consider the beginnings of cancerous growth; diagnosis and biopsy; the invasion of malignant and benign tumours; the fear of pain and disease and how this can prevent early intervention such as having a mammogram; what is it like to live with an illness combined with the prohibitive effect of gaining access to expensive medication and the significant impact upon a person's life, family, friends and loved ones.

The University of Tasmania's Dr Susan Collins, Coordinator of Strings and of Orchestral Music at the Conservatorium of Music will perform *Bach's Chaconne* at 2.15pm during the opening tomorrow.

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