

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Stunning furniture piece wins \$5000 student art prize

A fine timber table made by Thai furniture student Chalit Kongsuwan (Num) is the inaugural winner of the \$5000 acquisitive art prize hosted by UTAS Accommodation Services.

Num's work, entitled *The Female Bench*, aims to encourage people to observe and appreciate the impermanence of nature. The complementary opposites of Yin (dark) and Yang (light) are represented in the bench by coexisting different configurations, tones and materials.

Num, a furniture student at the Art School, used blackwood and myrtle for his striking piece.

Before coming to study at UTAS, Num worked in a Thai furniture factory, "where you work six days a week and your creativity is stifled". He recently completed his MA in Fine Art and Design and plans to return to Thailand where he will use his new skills to teach others.

The judges, artist David Keeling, winner of the 2006 John Glover Prize for landscape painting, and Sue Backhouse, assistant curator at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, said the award – which was open to all UTAS students - attracted 60 entries from 55 artists and the standard of competition was extremely high.

As a result, they decided to award a joint second prize by dividing the \$3000 between two artists as \$1500 prizes.

Sue Henderson's ink on paper titled *Skinny Girl, Fatman Buttress* and Belinda Holloway's furniture piece, *Linea*, took out equal second place.

The judges also highly commended Joel Crosswell for his sculpture *It Only Comes Out At Night* and George Finch for his photograph, *Unity*.

The prize is the richest student art prize in Tasmania. It was launched as part of the University's Celebration of Colleges program to stimulate art and cultural appreciation and to foster a dynamic and creative sense of community among students living at Christ College, St John Fisher College and the University Apartments.

Organisers believe the winning works will now become a "talking point" among students at the colleges.

- **Please find attached an image of Num's bench which is on display at John Fisher College, Hobart campus.**
- **For interviews with Chalit Kongsuwan (Num), please call 0432 814 442**
- **For background and interviews on the prize, please call Paddy Barbour, Accommodation Services, on 6226 6412 or 0438 386 422.**

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