

MEDIA RELEASE

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Sight and sound at Australian geographers' conference

The sights and sounds of geography are on show this week at the 2008 Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG) Conference, hosted by UTAS School of Geography and Environmental Studies in Hobart.

An exhibition entitled *Sight* is on view for three weeks at Hobart Campus Fine Art Gallery in the Union Building on Churchill Road, showcasing the different ways people see and understand their world. All works are from the University of Tasmania collection.

And conference geographers will sample *audible geography* from a new CD Rom commissioned by the Institute.

Associate Professor Elaine Stratford, Head of the UTAS School of Geography and Environmental Sciences, said that the perception of geography as being all about maps and topography is old-fashioned.

“For example, the new CD Rom brings together 11 sound and new media artists who record the world – from the smallest of noises to landscape-scale sounds,” she said.

Fellow geographer Michelle Duffy from The Australian Centre at the University of Melbourne said the work of artists presented on *audible geography* goes to the heart of geographic research.

“We need to remember how deeply connected we are to the world, and *hearing* that world is one way to do it,” she said.

“We hear in these works people’s thinking and feeling about place, and they are thought-provoking contributions to this new and important field of study.”

UTAS Fine Art Gallery curator, Rachael Rose said artworks for the exhibition *Sight* were chosen to extend what the viewer might consider initially to be imagery about ‘environment’.

The selection loosely falls into traditional representations of landscape and form, abstract images, the use of scientific methods to map and describe the presence of humans in the environment and personal geography.

This week’s conference marks 50 years of the IAG, which promotes, supports and defends Australian geography here and overseas.

*** For information/ interviews, please contact Associate Professor Elaine Stratford, Head of the UTAS School of Geography and Environmental Studies.**

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