

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Charity art auction at UTAS marks National Autism Month

The acting vice-chancellor of the University of Tasmania, Professor David Rich, will open an exhibition and auction of art by notable Australians at the NEW Gallery at the Newnham campus tomorrow (Thursday April 22) to support Autism Tasmania.

Among the prominent people exhibiting in *Body Exquisite* are the husband of the Australian Governor -General, Michael Bryce, politicians Kim Booth and Michael Ferguson, and 2010 Gallipoli art Prize winner, Raymond Arnold.

Other exhibitors of the 30 works in the exhibition are Rosemary Armitage, Launceston Mayor Albert van Zetten, and noted artists Patrick Grieve, Tony Smibert, Philip Wolfhagen and Carmel Burns.

Mark Ward, president of Autism Tasmania said the result of requesting work from a diverse group of people was an extraordinary display of visual ideas, celebrating diversity of the human form and spirit, rendered in an amazing range of styles and methods.

“Autism Tasmania is proud to be associated with this project and is grateful to those who have generously donated their time and talent to produce these works,” he said.

The art works will be auctioned online until Thursday April 22 through the Autism Tasmania website, <http://www.autismtas.org.au>, with all proceeds to be donated to Autism Tasmania.

Autism is a neurological disorder that affects the way a person communicates, socialises, and perceives the world.

Autism Tasmania is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing lifelong help to people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The organisation began in 1992 and relies on the work of volunteers and on membership fees, donations and proceeds from activities to fund and run its programs.

Recently, the Federal government provided grants to set up and run an Autism Advisor service to assist parents of children in the 0 to 7 age-group. However, ASD is an all-of-life issue and help is needed to provide ASD-specific support for all ages.

Body Exquisite runs from 22nd April to the 12th June.

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