

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Hold a lens to the Australian landscape and what do you see?

### *Veneer* – exploring the layers of the natural and artificial

Exhibition by Jennie Jackson and Glenda Orr

Opens 14 – 30 August, Metro Arts Galleries  
Part of the Metro Arts Artistic Program 2008

The awards are flowing in thick and fast for two Queensland College of Art graduates, Jennie Jackson and Glenda Orr, who will team up to present an exhibition of new paintings, digital prints and etchings – *Veneer* opens at Metro Arts Galleries in Brisbane on 14 August.

Both artists graduated with first class honours in their respective Bachelor of Fine Art degrees (Jackson in 2006 and Orr in 2007) and Jackson has since returned to complete a Doctorate in Visual Arts.

The effort and skill both artists dedicate to their studies has been rewarded with multiple art awards and exhibition opportunities.

Jackson's work is currently exhibited in Artisan's *The Great Divide* exhibition and will open at Jan Manton Gallery on 15 October. Her recent awards include a Highly Commended in the Alice Springs Art Prize (2008), the Thiess Acquisitive Prize (2006), finalist nominations in the Sunshine Coast Art Prize, Whyalla Art Prize and Stanthorpe Art Prize (all 2008) and selection in Gaden's Top 10 (2007).

At her graduation last year, Orr was awarded the Inaugural Art Theory Prize and a University Medal and won first prize in the Melbourne Port Jackson Press Graduate Printmaking Award (2008). Also this year, her work has been exhibited in *Launch* (Clayton Utz Travelling Scholarship) and the Churchie National Emerging Art Exhibition, amongst others.

Of course, awards are just the icing on the cake for these full-time artists whose mutual passion for art and nature brought them together for this exhibition.

In *Veneer*, Jackson and Orr distinctly individual works consider the complex interaction between nature and culture, geography and history.

Jackson has consistently explored femininity and nature through her work; while Orr's intrigue stems from her study and work as an environmental policy analyst in NSW for eight years before she threw it all in to move to Queensland and study Fine Art in 2002.

Jackson says, "My work explores how, since settlement, various ideas have been constructed about the landscape blending an experience of the Australian bush with 'memories' (in the form of visual traditions) that have come from other parts of the world.

"I'm intrigued in how the Australian landscape has been represented in non-indigenous Australian culture and in how it has been 'seen' through spectacles that have held scientific, picturesque or decorative lenses."

Both artists refer to artistic modes of representing the Australian bush through engravings, the picturesque landscape, panoramas and decorative patterns – all formulaic ways that were historically employed to describe, analyse or represent nature.

Jackson is interested in how adopting these ways of representing nature have distorted, coloured and moulded our image of our environment, entwining concepts of culture and nature.

Orr's artwork is focussed on creating a visual language that reflects on the legacy of past land management practices, expresses her concern for the undervaluing of our natural environment and critiques the failing of science and politics to adequately solve issues such as loss of habitat and biodiversity.

Her focus is on exploring the metaphorical power of the 'axe' and its relationship with the forest.

"The axe is anachronistic, a tool of the past, symbolising a masculine pioneering spirit that tamed the wilderness, bringing it into productive order," says Orr.

"While it has been outclassed by the bulldozer and chainsaw, the symbol of the axe still retains its potency as a symbol of untamed rage and violence – a weapon of the savage and mass murderer."

### **Veneer – exploring the layers of the natural and artificial**

Exhibition of new paintings, digital prints and etchings by Jennie Jackson and Glenda Orr

14 – 30 August

Opening: Wednesday 14 August 6pm - 8pm

Artist talks: Wednesday 20 August 6pm

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 10am – 4:30pm, Saturday 2pm – 5pm

### **Brief description of exhibition:**

*Veneer* opens as part of Metro Arts' Galleries Program 2008 on 14 August 6pm-8pm in Metro Arts Galleries. The exhibition of new drawings, digital prints and etchings by Brisbane-based artists Jennie Jackson and Glenda Orr investigate the complex interaction of culture and nature through a series of works focused on the forest. Jennie and Glenda are interested in the history of how the natural world has been perceived and how various ideas of nature influence how people live in the world. Each artist's work, however, occupies quite distinct territories. The exhibition runs for three weeks until Saturday 30 August.

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Jennie Jackson**

Jennie Jackson is currently studying a Doctorate of Visual Arts at Queensland College of Arts, having completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts at Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne and Honours (first class) at Queensland College of Arts.

She has staged solo exhibitions in both Melbourne and Brisbane and her work has been represented in *Hatched 2007: the National Graduate Show* (PICA), Perth; *Fresh Cuts 2007*, (IMA), Brisbane; *15 artists 07*, Redcliffe City Art Gallery, 2007; and *Gadens Top 10*, 2007, Brisbane.

Jennie was awarded the Thiess Acquisitive Award 2006, and the Julian Counsel Award 2003 and was Highly Commended in the Alice Art Prize 2008. Her work has been selected for numerous prize exhibitions including Sunshine Coast Art Prize 2008, Stanthorpe Art Prize, 2008, Whyalla Art Prize 2005 and 2007, Artworker's Award, 2007, Conrad Jupiter's Art Prize 2005 and Wallara Traveling Scholarship 2003. Her work is held in numerous private and public collections within Australia. She is represented, in Victoria, by Kozminsky's Gallery and will show in October with Jan Manton's Gallery Brisbane.

For more details and images of Jennie's work, visit her website: [www.jenniejackson.com](http://www.jenniejackson.com)

### **Glenda Orr**

While employed as a plant biochemist with CSIRO, Glenda Orr completed her first two degrees, a Bachelor and a Master of Science. In the 1990s, Glenda decided to make her passion for the environment into a career, undertaking a Graduate Diploma in Environmental Studies at Macquarie University. This led to an eight-year career as an environmental policy analyst in natural resource

management for the NSW government. While Glenda has drawn all her life, it wasn't until 2002 when she moved to Queensland that she was able to devote herself full time to art. In 2007, Glenda graduated from the Queensland College of Art with a Bachelor of Fine Art with First Class Honours for which she was also awarded the Inaugural Art Theory Prize and a University Medal.