

Artsource MEDIA RELEASE

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Through the studio door – enter the artists' world

Normally the Old Customs House (OCH) studios are sacrosanct spaces where artists explore ideas and develop their work behind closed doors, but for **just 6 hours once a year** the doors are flung open and the artists invite the community in.

Sunday 15 November is a unique time to meet the artists in person and to discover what is involved in their practice as a professional artist, to experience the different approaches of the **24 artists** and to observe the processes that result in a finished artwork.

The day will also include the popular Artsource **6X6 – 6 artists talk for 6 minutes about their work**. And to keep the kids busy while parents are at the talks, **the WA Circus School is offering a free circus workshop**.

The OCH in the Fremantle maritime district has been a bedrock for Western Australia's visual arts for over two decades. Managed by Artsource, **more than 150 artists have benefited from a studio in the heritage building**, including many of the state's most exciting artists.

This year studio artist and finalist in the Qantas Spirit of Youth Awards, Rebecca Baumann has also selected works from all the artists to be exhibited around the corridors and free spaces of the heritage building.

OCH is also home to 2 writers' studios, the Artsource Residential Studio, the Artsource Fremantle office, Circus WA, Bizircus and Nova Ensemble.

OLD CUSTOMS HOUSE OPEN STUDIOS – Sunday 15 November 2009

- **Studios open: 10am – 4pm FREE ENTRY**
- 6X6 artists' talks: 2-3pm; featuring artists: Ian de Souza, Laurel Nannup, Pip + Pop (Tanya Schultz + Nicole Andrijevic), Rachel Coad, Rebecca Baumann, Toogarr Morrison
- Free circus workshop for kids: 2-3pm; Bookings essential - freo@artsource.net.au or 9335 8366

Image courtesy of artist: Angela McHarrie (top); Pip&Pop (below, p2)

Find attached further info: a full list of artists in 2009 and info on the 6X6 artists.

The Old Customs House Open Studios are part of the Fremantle Fringe Festival 09 and are supported by: City of Fremantle, Little Creatures, Madfish.

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OLD CUSTOMS HOUSE ARTISTS 2009:

Alwin Reamillo + Juliet Lea	Clare Northend Dan Gladden	Rebecca Baumann Richard Coldicutt
Angela McHarrie	David Turley	Stephen Armistead & Lia McKnight
Anne Irvine	Ian De Souza	Tanya Schultz
Annie Hsiao Wen-Wang	Jacinda Bayne	Tim Burns
Caitlin Yardley	Laurel Nannup	Toogarr Morrison
Carol Wells	Nicole Andrijevic	
Chris Hopewell	Peter Wales	
Clare Davies	Rachel Coad	

6X6 ARTISTS TALKS: each artist has just 6 minutes each to tell us about their recent work or the journey that has brought them to this stage in their career:

- **Pip & Pop** (aka Tanya Shultz & Nicole Adrijevic) are well known for their awesome kaleidoscopic installations. They recently won the Japan Foundation, Sydney's new artist program, Facetnate! John McDonald, Art Critic described their work as: *such a show-stopper that it had an immediate impact on everyone who saw it and left a smile on their faces.*
- **Rachel Coad** is known for alluring large scale portraits and has just returned from a solo exhibition in Mayfair, London where the ARIA award winning band 'The Panics' played an impromptu acoustic set at the opening.
- **Toogarr Morrison** has just completed a large 8 panel canvas for the Horizon Planetarium at Scitech
- **Ian de Souza** will be painting the Circus School members as they perform on open day; he has won a number of awards, his work is well-collected worldwide and he has just returned from a successful solo show in France.
- **Rebecca Baumann's** recent work explores themes of happiness and anxiety, celebration and spectacle.... featuring exploding balloons, bouncing balls and effervescent confetti
- **Laurel Nannup** is a Nyoongar story-teller whose work predominantly tells the stories of the reality of life for many Indigenous people of her generation, of family and mission life. Laurel is currently working on a piece for the renovations of St George Cathedral in Perth.

