

SHOTS IN THE DARK: RARELY SEEN

Eight vision-impaired photographers will exhibit their selected images, captured around Rundle Mall, in a SALA exhibition at the State Library of South Australia, Treasures Wall, commencing 2 August till 26 August.

Presented by the Disability and Art Transition Team (DATT) “the exhibition explores the rarely seen corners of the city offering an intimate investigation of a space that is not often noticed by the general public in the daily hustle and bustle of life”, said DATT Project Officer Martin Sawtell.

A first for South Australia, this exhibition began with a project to explore opportunities for blind and visually impaired people, who had not considered photography or using a camera to capture their world. Led by Melbourne-based “Blind Photographer” Andrew Fellows (joined by his Guide Dog Eamon) and Adelaide photographic artist Sam Oster, the eight brave participants took their creative talents to another level during two weekend workshops and further sessions with Sam over a period of four months. The resulting familiarity and confidence with using a digital camera, loaned to the project by Nikon, saw their skills grow using the city between Rundle Mall and North Terrace, Stephens Place and Charles Street. With the concept of “Urban Abstraction” to guide their creativity, the photographers have had their selected images curated by DATT to present a fascinating exhibition, that not only highlights the unique perspectives of a familiar area, but allows the visually impaired creators to show their interpretation through the photographic medium.

A concept known as “Access Aesthetics” will further enhance the exhibition allowing it to be heard as well as seen..“The State Library is delighted to be participating in such an innovative, creative, and professional exhibition during SALA, with the Minister Hill launching the exhibition on Wednesday 1st August and the display open to the public during normal library hours till August 26”, said State Library Director Mr Alan Smith.

DATT worked with a professionally trained audio describer to allow the vision impaired to hear the work, while other local artists, including film maker Brian Mason, DJ Driller Jet Armstrong and Gary Stewart Choreographer and Director of Australian Dance Theatre have described their own responses to the images. Audiences will be encouraged to become part of the exhibition by making their own investigation, following a trail of digital breadcrumbs to track down rarely seen corners of Adelaide. Other innovative features of the exhibition are the availability of a play-button brooch and mp3 player holding all of the description recordings. The State Library has worked with DATT to train the volunteer ambassador team who will be in Treasures Wall between 10am -4pm week days to assist the visitors.

“The Shots in the Dark: Rarely Seen Exhibition encourages us all to look differently at the world around us and to not limit the potential of individuals based on assumption made about their capacities” said Martin Sawtell.

Media inquiries:

Bev Scott, Marketing Manager, State Library: 8207 7221 : 0467 770 793

Photo opportunities at launch or by arrangement with Bev Scott

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scott.beverly@slsa.sa.gov.au

Exhibition partners



Government of South Australia
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