

International Optical Landscapes

By Lynda Allen

Exhibiting in a different city nearly every month this year Nicole Ayliffe is establishing herself internationally as a determined and talented glass artist.

In 2005 South Australian School of Art graduate Nicole Ayliffe was selected for the 2005 Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition where she received a high commendation from the Adelaide City Council Award for her optical landscape glassworks.

The works are hot blown glass, cut and polished before a gel medium photographic image is applied to the back surface of the glass form. "The thickness of the form gives the illusion of space, creating an optical lens," explains Nicole. "The black and white photographic images reference the Australian landscape and are highlighted by the refraction of light through the glass form."

Nicole has continued to gain recognition for her unique works and was selected as a finalist in the Ranamok Glass Prize in 2005 and 2006, the Waterhouse Natural History Art Prize in 2006 and the 2007 Young Glass International in Ebeltoft, Denmark. She also won Ausglass' 2007 Vicki Torr Online Gallery Prize.

This year Nicole has already exhibited in COLLECT at London's Victoria &



Nicole Ayliffe with her Optical Landscape glasswork Photograph Lynda Allen

Albert Museum, Art Taipei in Taiwan, Wheaton Arts and Cultural Centre near Philadelphia, Contemporary Art Gallery in Holland, Habitat Galleries in Boca Raton (USA) and in Sydney and Hobart galleries. Through the COLLECT exhibition Nicole received requests to exhibit her work at The Scottish Gallery in Edinburgh, Fusion Gallery in Bristol and Contemporary Art Gallery in Amsterdam.

Later in the year she will hold exhibitions in Canberra and Melbourne, before exhibiting for the second

time at SOFA (Sculpture Objects and Functional Art) in Chicago. "I'm looking forward to following up interest expressed from other galleries last year, including Chappell Gallery and Leo Kaplan Gallery in New York."

While busy with a number of interstate and overseas exhibitions for the rest of the year Nicole's glass work can be purchased at the JamFactory shop, 19 Marphett Street, Adelaide, before she exhibits at Greenhill Galleries from 27 January to 19 February 2008 in The Good Earth glass and ceramic exhibition.