

Media Release



new design 2007 award winners: Cobi Cockburn, Kacey Smits, Frag Woodall (L – R).
Photo: Yee Hwan Yeoh

***new design 2007* winners announced last night**

The winners of this year's *new design 2007* Object Award for Design for Manufacture and the Object Award for Studio-based Practice were announced last night at the national graduate exhibition's opening. The crowd that gathered at Object Gallery heard guest speaker, Anne Watson (Curator, Decorative Arts and Design, Powerhouse Museum) announce **Frag Woodall** (UTS) as the winner of the Object Award for Design for Manufacture and **Kacey Smits** (Monash University) and **Cobi Cockburn** (ANU) as joint winners of the Object Award for Studio-based Practice.

Selected from the fifteen *new design 2007* finalists by a panel of five judges, this year's judging process was a difficult one. The calibre of work was extremely high and the final decisions, as evidenced by a tie in one of the categories, were very close. Frag Woodall's *Everglide* – a portable, collapsible bicycle that folds down into a backpack – impressed the judges with its ingenuity, while Kacey Smits' extraordinary synthetic polymer necklaces show incredible room for development, and all the judges agreed that Cobi Cockburn has the potential to be one of Australia's biggest glass exports.

Each award carries a cash prize of \$2,000 and catapults the winners into the public eye, earning them acclaim and exceptional professional opportunities. Frag Woodall, Kacey Smits and Cobi Cockburn join an impressive list of past winners, including Kasia Bilinski (2006), Gregory Scott (2005) and Trent Jansen (2004).

***new design 2007* judging panel**

David Clark (Editor, Vogue Living), Nina Cueva (Co-director, Metalab), Barbara Horn (Director of Operations, Melbourne Museum), Steven Pozel (Director, Object: Australian Centre for Craft and Design), Anne Watson (Curator, Decorative Arts and Design, Powerhouse Museum)

***new design 2007* opened on 21 May and is on show until 1 July 2007 at Object Gallery.**

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