



announcement

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QUEENSLAND CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF YOUNG ARTIST MENTORING

Youth Arts Queensland's Young Artist Mentoring Program celebrates it's 10th birthday

A group of fifteen emerging Queensland artists from a range of backgrounds are gathering in Brisbane this week to commence a nine-month mentorship. They are the tenth group to participate in the nationally regarded **Young Artist Mentoring Program (YAMP)**, funded by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations *Skilling Queenslanders for work* initiative.

Ten years ago, Youth Arts Queensland developed a mentoring model that aimed to support young and emerging artists aged 18 to 26 from across the state to further develop their skills and knowledge in their chosen arts practice. Ten years on, YAMP has proven to successfully leverage artists' and arts workers' careers. Over 100 artists and arts workers have gained industry exposure thus far and every year, about 95% of participants find employment in the arts and creative industries through the networks they tap into participating in YAMP.

'YAMP gave me the tools to become an emerging professional, instead of just an emerging artist. I was very lucky to have people around me during YAMP who saw my potential and gave me the skills that have significantly changed my life' says musician Simone Pitot, a YAMP 2008 participant.

These are great prospects for this year's artists who are about to commence their YAMP journey. Amongst them are a photographer, a painter, a curator, a jewellery designer, a theatre artist, a youth arts practitioner, a lighting designer, producers, live and new media artists and musicians.

Youth Arts Queensland's CEO Cate Farrar is excited to see such a diverse group being accepted into the program. 'It is a competitive process to get into YAMP and the fifteen young artists selected into the program this year had a very strong vision for a sustainable career in the arts,' Woodland says.

Over the next nine months, the 2009 YAMP mentorees will work closely with a professional mentor of their choice and both parties will benefit from sharing ideas, networks and industry experience. The group will participate in professional development opportunities and Youth Arts Queensland's Navigation accredited arts business training program. Each participant will have the opportunity to apply for project funding of up to \$4,750 and receive individual support and advice to further their creative practice.

For more information on YAMP, visit www.yaq.org.au/yamp

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**All YAMP 2009 participants are available for interview. Images are available upon request.
For further information, images and interview opportunities, please contact:**

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