**Beyond Metal: Contemporary Australian Jewellery and Holloware** showcases the work of 27 of our most well known contemporary practitioners at the RMIT Gallery from June 6–28.

This show is characterised by a uniquely Australian aesthetic that embraces raw as well as recycled materials, innovative design and use of technology, and a respectfully playful approach to tradition.

*Beyond Metal: Contemporary Australian Jewellery and Holloware* was curated by Suzanne Davies, Carlier Makigawa, Beatrice Schlabowsky and Ray Stebbins for RMIT Gallery, and returns to Melbourne, after a celebrated tour of India Singapore and Malaysia.

Davies said “Australia has vast resources, particularly mineral resources, and we aren’t necessarily known for value-adding on our resources. So we wanted this exhibition to demonstrate how innovative Australian artists are in relation to the materials they have at hand.”

She said “Their value lies in the creative ways in which they’re used. There are a lot of recycled plastics, there’s a combination of precious metals and non-precious metals. You’ll also find pearls with woven wire, and all sorts of unlikely combinations, she said.

Davies believes this exhibition expands and invigorates traditional conventions by introducing new ideas, processes and materials. It encourages people to think differently about jewellery making and metal smithing as it emphasizes the diversity, quality and value of design in contemporary Australian practitioners.

The works range from Susan Cohn’s history line bracelets, to the fine perforated silver of Marian Hosking bracelets, the anodised aluminium slotted baskets by Andrew Last to the polyurethane necklace, *Landing Platform* by Nicholas Bastin, the embroidered steel wire vase by Stephen Gallagher to the copper and brass teapot object by Daehoon Kang.

“Some of the objects are utilitarian, some can be used or worn, and others are simply remarkable objects. Every one of them is hand made, and this exhibition shows that there’s still a strong tradition in Australia of hand-making,” Davies said.

The participating artists in Beyond Metal are Helen Aitken-Kuhnen, Roseanne Bartley, Nicholas Bastin; Vito Bila, Julie Blyfield, Susan Cohn, Simon Cottrell, Juongmee Do, Mark Edgoose, Robert Foster, Stephen Gallagher, Rowena Gough, Marian Hosking, Daehoon Kang, Johannes Kuhnen, Elfrun Lach, Andrew Last, Simone LeAmon, Carlier Makigawa, Vicki Mason, Leslie Matthews, Karl...
Millard, Chris Mullins, Sean O’Connell, Vanessa Raimondo, Brenda Ridgewell, Beatrice Schlabowsky.

Website: www.rmit.edu.au/rmitgallery

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Images left to right:

Public Programs June 2008

BEYOND METAL
Contemporary Australian Jewellery and Holloware

Jewellery Floor Talk
Monday 23 June 1.00 - 2.00 pm
Join artists Nicholas Bastin, Mark Edgoose and Beatrice Schlabowsky in conversation about their work and practice. Free event.

Roseanne Bartley,
H2O Bucket with
Green Bottle, 2005.
Photo: Mark Ashkanasy.