SCHMUCK 2009 comes to RMIT Gallery
5 June – 18 July 2009

SCHMUCK, one of the most dynamic and prestigious exhibitions of contemporary jewellery in the world, will celebrate its 50th anniversary with its first and only showing in Australia at the RMIT Gallery from June 5 to July 18, 2009.

Prawn bracelets, disappearing pearls and amorphous metal necklaces are just some of the pieces Australian audiences will see for the first time.

Around 600 emerging and established international designers participate in the annual SCHMUCK competition. In 2009, Dutch jewellery specialist and art historian, Marjan Unger chose 60 finalists including three Melbourne jewellers - Professor Robert Baines, Laura Deakin and Julia deVille. Three jewellers: Sam Tho Duong (Vietnam), Beppe Kessler (Netherlands) and Felix Lindner (Germany) were selected winners of the prestigious Herbert-Hofmann Prize.

The exhibition at RMIT Gallery will also include selected works by featured senior artist, internationally respected practitioner, Gerd Rothmann.

SCHMUCK began in Munich in 1959, and has become the leading forum for jewellery designers, collectors, gallerists and museum professionals, to look for emerging trends and talent.

RMIT Gallery Director Suzanne Davies said "It is a great honour to bring SCHMUCK to Australia because it is the world’s most authoritative survey of contemporary jewellery, and in more than half a century it has only been shown outside Munich three times in Prague, New York and Birmingham.

"RMIT has such along tradition of training fine jewellers, designers and makers and I am thrilled that three Melbourne jewellers are finalists in the 2009 exhibition," she said.

Professor Robert Baines and Julie deVille are available for interview.
We have a broad range of high quality images available of all finalists in the exhibition.
During the exhibition SCHMUCK Director, Wolfgang Lösche will be in Melbourne and available for interview.

For more information, interviews, images, regarding the exhibition or the individual artists please contact Vanessa Gerrans at RMIT Gallery Tel: 03 99252686; vanessa.gerrans@rmit.edu.au
SCHMUCK is a special exhibition of the international Trade Fair in Munich, managed by the GHM - Society for Craft Fairs, organized by the "Chamber of Trade and Crafts for Munich and Upper Bavaria" and supported by the Danner-Foundation Munich.