

## media release



May 14, 2008

### **VISIONS AND VOICES SOUTH BANK HOSTS SCHIZOPHRENIA AWARENESS WEEK ART EXHIBITION**

Visions and Voices, an extraordinary art exhibition will be on display at the Suncorp Piazza at the Parklands at South Bank from 17<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2008 in a bid to highlight the prevalence of schizophrenia and mental illness in our community.

Visions and Voices is comprised of 400 pieces of work from more than 150 artists, inviting the public to view the world as seen through the mind's eye of mental illness.

Schizophrenia Fellowship Queensland Senior Project Officer Genevieve Turner says the event coincides with Schizophrenia Awareness Week, a national event that brings information on the illness to the community and increases awareness to the true facts of schizophrenia.

"This year marks the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Visions and Voices Art Exhibition – it's become a very successful exhibition, and we're thrilled to host the event at South Bank this year," Ms Turner explained.

"The artwork in the exhibition is comprised of painting, drawings, poetry and sculpture, and has been created by artists living with a psychiatric disability."

"The people exhibiting in Visions and Voices are accomplished artists and it's incredible to showcase their accomplishments at South Bank," Ms Turner said.

Some of the artwork will be for sale, and all proceeds will go to the artist with pieces ranging from \$15 to \$2,000.

"Artwork sold from previous exhibitions has been purchased by a range of buyers," Ms Turner said, "the artwork has been bought by overseas buyers and many pieces also adorn the walls at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, the Princess Alexandra Hospital, The Park, Queensland Centre for Mental Health and Research."

"This exhibition is unique because artists are creating pieces from so many perspectives as well as their own personal experiences," Ms Turner explained.

"Entry to the exhibition is by gold coin donation," Ms Turner said.

Jonathon Welch from ABC's Choir of Hard Knocks will open the Visions and Voices exhibition at a cocktail party on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2008.

**WHAT:** Visions and Voices: Art Exhibition coinciding with Schizophrenia Awareness Week

**WHEN:** Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2008

**WHERE:** South Bank Parklands, Suncorp Piazza



**ENDS**

For more information please contact the Fellowship on (07) 3358 4424.

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