

## Media Release

Date: Friday 8 November, 2013

### Full steam ahead: THE ANTIPODEAN STEAMPUNK SHOW

Contemporary technology and Victorian styling collide in spectacular fashion during *The Antipodean Steampunk Show* at Wagga Wagga Art Gallery. If today's technology had been introduced in the nineteenth century, what would the world look like? *The Antipodean Steampunk Show* attempts to answer this question in a fascinating mash-up of past, future, and fantasy!

Rapidly changing technology and the modern obsession with continual consumption have led to an endless process of upgrade, improvement, and replacement. Today's production lines are inevitably tomorrow's landfill. The Steampunk movement rails against this mentality by using elaborate craftsmanship to transform mass produced – and easily discarded – contemporary products into unique objects of desire.

The artists contributing to the *Steampunk* exhibition come from a range of cross-discipline backgrounds including engineer-sculptors, artist-scientists, shoe-makers, jeweller-taxidermists, writers, performers, photographers, film-makers, tinkerers, designers and hobbyists. The dynamic works on display in *The Antipodean Steampunk Show* include jewellery, shoes, time machines, ray guns, photography and music players, all modified to reflect 19<sup>th</sup> century aesthetics.

Exhibition curator Kirsten Fitzpatrick said, "We are excited to present the first public gallery exhibition of this fascinating movement in Australia. While once dismissed as a passing sub-culture fad, Steampunk is taking an ever stronger hold on contemporary culture. It speaks of a widespread desire for authenticity and an alternative future of handmade and sustainable production."

***The Antipodean Steampunk Show*** will be open to the public from Saturday 9 November, 2013 until Sunday 5 January, 2014. The exhibition will be officially launched on Friday 6 December; and on Saturday 7 December, acclaimed glass artists and Steampunk aficionados Christian Arnold and Laurie Young will present a special Steampunk Lampworking Day, with live lampworking in glass from 10am until 5pm.

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***The Antipodean Steampunk Show*** is an **artisan** travelling exhibition. **Artisan** produces Australia's largest touring exhibition program of craft and design.

This exhibition has been supported by Visions of Australia, an Australian Government program supporting touring exhibitions by providing funding assistance for the development and touring of Australian cultural material across Australia.

**artisan**



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**Exhibition Dates**

**When:** Saturday 9 November, 2013 – Sunday 5 January, 2014

**Exhibition Launch**

**When:** Friday 6 December, 2013, 6pm – 8pm

**Where:** Wagga Wagga Art Gallery

**Cost:** Free

**Steampunk Lampworking Day: Christian Arnold and Laurie Young**

**When:** Saturday 7 December, 2013, 10am – 5pm

**Where:** E3 art space, Wagga Wagga Art Gallery

**Cost:** Free

