

## MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 8pm Friday 30 May 2008

### Smart State Designer of the Year Finalists announced

**30 May 2008** - A Brisbane jewelry designer is among three finalists in the qdos 2008 Smart State Designer of the Year Awards announced tonight at Brisbane's Gallery of Modern Art.

Ari Athans of *Ari Jewelry*, Robert Geddes of *PROdesign Australia* and Revelyn Bryce-Browning of *Design Vision* will vie for the top honour, to be revealed at a gala event on June 13.

Ms Athans said she was pleased at having her work recognised in this manner.

"My designs are a reflection of the journey of the materials, the maker and the wearer," Ms Athans said.

Pieces by all three designers are being showcased as part of the 'qdos - Queensland Design on Show 2008' Exhibition at the Gallery of Modern Art, Level 3 Media Lounge running until 27 June 2008.

The Smart State Designer of the Year award is a partnership between the Government through Arts Queensland and the Design Institute of Australia (Queensland Branch) and Forbo Flooring Systems Australia.

Awards Coordinator Anna Magnus said she was delighted Arts Queensland had come on board again this year to sponsor the program.

"This is the third year the Queensland Government has been involved in the awards – it's a fantastic way to highlight the diversity of design excellence in the state and reward that effort in a very tangible way," Ms Magnus said.

"qdos covers the design disciplines of Visual Communication Design, Interior Design and Three Dimensional Design.

"The array of design disciplines represented in this year's entries is very exciting—with our three finalists showcasing the DIA's strength in representing the plethora of design industries in Queensland," she said.

#### ENDS

Brief finalist profiles attached. High-resolution images available upon request.

#### For Further Information Contact:

Anna Magnus  
qdos awards coordinator

Bernadette Alizart  
snr communications consultant

**p** 0408 111 963  
**f** 07 3112 6106  
**e** [qdos@design.org.au](mailto:qdos@design.org.au)

**p** 0418 727 764  
**f** 3711 6511  
**e** [qdos@design.org.au](mailto:qdos@design.org.au)

## Smart State Designer of the Year Finalists

### Ari Athans

*Ari Jewellery*

As a jewellery designer, Ari Athans, aims to challenge notions of preciousness and wearability through the exploration of metallic and mineral forms and new technologies that reveal the materials' potential. Her jewellery is a way of expressing the genesis, morphology and structure of minerals and is informed by her professional and technical expertise as a geologist, gemmologist and designer. She has a strong preference for Australian mineral samples—minerals as precious jewels with alchemical associations. Her design process results in unique pieces of jewellery that Athans believes continue to tell stories about the journey of the materials, the maker and the wearer. Her jewellery practice is unique in that it operates as a studio / workshop / gallery producing wholesale, retail, commission and exhibition pieces. As a consequence, she has developed a sustainable business model for designers. Her practice also offers opportunities within Brisbane for local, established and emerging jewelers. Her innovative work has been recognized through her inclusion, as a Queensland based jewellery practitioner, in a number of Australian and International exhibitions including the touring *Freestyle Survey of Australian Designers; Make the Common Precious, Self; and Schmuck*. Through her practice, Athans has also contributed to the design and craft dialogue and aims to assist in the development of stronger links between industry and the arts.

### Robert Geddes

*PROdesign Australia*

Robert Geddes does not purvey any one design aesthetic, work on any one medium or espouse to any particular idiom. Instead he seeks to understand how the product can improve the world for the user, the client, the community, the ecology before seeking to create a solution that will pass the test of time. In association with the commercial realities his team steer projects—largely commissioned—toward a high impact end that will have a positive impact for current and future generations. Over 25 years of practice he has developed a range of expertise including medical device design. Recognition of the standard of Geddes' design include: Top Nominee, INDEX International Design Award 2007 for the Qlicksmart Cassette 3-in1 sterile scalpel blade remover. Geddes is the director of PROdesign, a company which has initiated the joint venture projects, Electric Vehicle Project and the Teardrop Camper Trailer—projects that seek to respond to the changing needs of society with locally developed and made products that are relevant to global markets. Geddes has passionately supported the promotion of Queensland designers and design. Through his professional involvement he strives to create opportunities for Queensland design innovation through the promotion of their value to the local, regional and global economy.

### Revelyn Bryce-Browning

*Design Vision*

Revelyn Bryce-Browning launched her professional career through a blended education from two institutions—a grounding in art based learning and in design theory. Although commencing her career as an interior designer, her practice has broadened to become multidisciplinary. Her skills including colour, branding, marketing, and signage design. Revelyn believes that learning continues throughout her life and has continued her professional development through listening to business speakers and working in collaboration with other design professionals. Bryce-Browning believes that design excellence comes from attention to detail while maintaining the original design intent all the way through to the realization of the project—that every little detail makes the whole. She continues to place importance on the process yet stresses the importance of the resolved product. In association, she insists on ethical behaviour, personal responsibility and professionalism. Bryce-Browning has contributed to the recognition of the design profession in Queensland through her work for the Design Institute of Australia in a range of roles. She also enjoys mentoring young designers and young women to cope with the contextual issues in contemporary practice.

**ENDS**