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WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ARTISTS SEEK INSPIRATION IN BASEL & SYDNEY artsource announces its 2009 Residency Recipients

Award winning local artist **Tom Müller** will be heading off to Basel, Switzerland for 6 months next year and 23 year old emerging artist **Gian Manik** will spend 3 months in the heart of Sydney at The Gunnery studios.

Many of us love the remote aspect of WA but if you can't escape periodically and connect with the rest of the world, you can feel trapped and rather dull. Artists often feel the same but the isolation presents a financial barrier due to the life choices they have made in order to be an artist. Artists who can go away for a while are more likely to return to muse on and share their experiences with the greater community as well as other artists back home.

Tom Müller, who won the 2008 Qantas Contemporary Australian Art Encouragement Award, works across installation, sculpture and new media. Tom says that the residency will allow him to "establish links across the world, to experience another culture and a different worldview. I am at a stage where this opportunity allows me to reach for a new level of maturity in my art practice". Tom plans to work on "site specific projects, unique to Basel, such as the city's transport and communications systems and how these generate a complex network of routes, exchanges and social relations".

Gian Manik graduated with first class honours from Curtin University in 2007 and since then has displayed a determined approach to his painting, sculpture and video work via a number of group exhibitions including *Hatched 07*, the national graduate show at P.I.C.A. Gian (pronounced *gee-ahn*) is looking forward to seeing how working in a different city will dictate the outcome of new work, in which he plans to document the construction and reconfiguration of sculptural forms.

The Basel Residency has been running for 21 years, and also brings a Swiss artist to Fremantle for 6 months each year. It offers a WA artist the chance to take a studio residence for 6 months in Switzerland, with a grant of \$21,000; made possible by the support of the Department of Culture and the Arts and the Christoph Merian Foundation* of Basel, Switzerland. Previous recipients include Rodney Glick, Alex Spremberg, Steve Tepper and Anne Neil.

The Gunnery Residency is a 3 month residency in Sydney with a \$4,200 grant and free studio residence. Over its 14 year existence artists hosted include Jeremy Kirwan-Ward, Mike Singe and Minaxi May.

Artsource currently manages these 2 residencies outside WA which give local artists a unique professional development opportunity to undertake research and creative expansion. Artsource is raising money for a Residency Fund to assist more local artists to take up more residencies like these.

For more information about Artsource and its activities See: www.artsource.net.au
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* The purpose of the Christoph Merian Foundation, which was created in 1886, is to assist the needy and to promote a healthy environment, quality of life and culture in Basel.



Department of Culture and the Arts
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