



Media release

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Space Dissolving Melinda Willis

Space Dissolving is concerned with architectural glass and its reflective qualities as a vehicle for the transience and impermanence of time and space. Melinda Willis captures moments of time in the reflections on sheet

glass in buildings, and translates them into layered structures of sheet glass, fused glass and mixed media.

Willis explores the phenomena of glass and its reflective qualities relative to the contemporary urban experience. Sheet glass is a predominant material in the urban environment and Willis believes that it has varying effects on the way we experience the space around us. Her ongoing research focuses on the spatial interaction that glass has with light. "[Glass] filters, reflects, refracts and transmits light, as it creates a continuing dialogue within itself", she says.

To create the pieces exhibited in *Space Dissolving* Willis observed and recorded reflections from sheet glass in buildings in public city areas. She explored these spaces through photography, capturing moments of time and translating them into works which reference a series of entries and exits in and across time and space.

The series of wall works sit alongside several freestanding pieces. The ghostly interplay of these structures echoes the transitory nature of life and relationships and the ephemera of the everyday.

Willis graduated from an undergraduate degree at South Australian School of Art, University of South Australia in 2008 and with First Class Honours from The Australian National University School of Art in 2010. She was selected as a finalist for the *Bullseye E-Merge* competition in 2008 and 2009; awarded the 2010 Canberra Glassworks Residency Award; and had work, entitled *Within/Without*, selected for the international peer reviewed journal, *New Glass Review*.

Space Dissolving will be officially opened by guest speaker **Julie Ryder, Textile designer, artist and educator** at 6.pm Thursday 9 February 2012. The exhibition continues until Saturday 24 March 2012 in the Centre's Gallery, Level 1 North Building, 180 London Circuit, Canberra City. Craft ACT: Craft and Design Centre is open Tuesday to Friday 10.am to 5.pm and Saturday 12.pm to 4.pm (closed Sunday, Monday and public holidays).



Images (top to bottom): **Melinda Willis, *Liminal Space 1* (detail), 2010**, screen printed, fused and cold-worked glass, UV cured inkjet print on glass, cold-worked mirror and float glass. Photograph: courtesy of the artist; **Melinda Willis, *Liminal Space 2* (detail), 2010**, screen printed, fused and cold-worked glass, UV cured inkjet print on glass, cold-worked mirror and float glass. Photograph: courtesy of the artist.

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Space Dissolving is a registered event in the 2012 Canberra Festival, presented by the ACT Government and sponsored by ACTTAB www.canberrafestival.com.au

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