Social perceptions of food challenged in exhibition confronting global issues

Contemporary issues relating to food will be presented in a confronting exhibition opening in Burnie TONIGHT (Friday, 26 May).

Presented by the University of Tasmania, Imagining food: art, aesthetics and design investigates universal concerns surrounding food and its ramifications in social, economic and natural environments.

Dr Kim Lehman, Senior Lecturer at the University and Co-Curator of the exhibition, said the showcase featured works from Tasmanian artists, researchers, educators and students in a variety of forms.

“This is a thought-provoking exhibition which demonstrates that artistic expression can have a role in uncovering and communicating difficult and controversial subjects,” Dr Lehman said.

“For the most part, food is viewed in the context of cooking and consumption. However there are many serious issues associated with it which people generally don’t think about; the number of wars fought over food and water, famine and hunger, its link to mental health through eating disorders, biosecurity issues and the agricultural economy.”

Cradle Coast campus Arts and Public Program Coordinator Joanna Gair will present two pieces in the exhibition made from artichoke stalk fibre using first century handmade paper techniques.

“I’d like the audience to better appreciate the food resources we have available to us in Tasmania, not only in terms of our excellent local agribusinesses, but also the by-products these industries produce,” Ms Gair said.

“As we approach the future we need to look at new ways of doing things, and reinvestigating old technologies can be a good starting point.”

Imagining food: art, aesthetics and design will be co-presented at the Burnie Regional Art Gallery (27 May – 25 June) and the Makers’ Workshop (27 May – 27 June).
The exhibition is presented through a partnership between the Institute for Regional Development, Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, Tasmanian College of the Arts, School of Social Sciences, University of Tasmania Collections, Makers' Space and the Burnie Regional Art Gallery.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:

What: Imagining food: art, aesthetics and design opening address by Dr Kim Lehman
When: TONIGHT, Friday, 26 May 6pm
Where: Burnie Regional Art Gallery, 77 - 99 Wilmot St, Burnie

Information released by:
University of Tasmania, Communications and Media Office
Phone: 61 3 6430 4966
Email: Shantelle.Rodman@utas.edu.au