

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## BREAKING GROUND APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Country Arts SA in partnership with SALA Festival is seeking applications for the biennial Visual Arts Professional Development Award **Breaking Ground**. Any visual artists living in regional South Australia are encouraged to apply.

The award recipient will be granted \$10,000 to develop a body of work for a solo exhibition to be held in Adelaide during the 2019 SALA Festival. In addition to this, another \$5,000 will be given to the winner to support a mentorship or professional advisor relationship with a professional in their field.

Country Arts SA Chief Executive Officer Steve Saffell said: *“Our aim, at Country Arts SA, is to provide opportunities for regional artists, whether this is through offering skills development or broadening professional experience which often leads to networks opening up. Breaking Ground is the perfect example of this - the successful artist is given the financial and curatorial support to experiment freely within their practice and work closely with a range of metropolitan professionals throughout the process, gaining both experience and exposure in metropolitan Adelaide.”*

The 2017 Breaking Ground award recipient, Chris de Rosa who resides in Port Elliot agreed that the award is a great opportunity for practising regional artists to gain further skills and exposure.

Chris de Rosa said: *“Breaking Ground provided me with the rare opportunity to make and mount a substantial new solo body of work. The ground breaking aspect of the project for me was that of being challenged, encouraged and mentored by Michelle Nikou. Michelle gave me permission to trust my impulses about making work rather than worrying about concept and ‘meaning’. This spilt out into further use of ceramic pieces and a more immersive and installation based use of the exhibition space.*

Ms de Rosa’s Breaking Ground exhibition *“she collects beautiful things – turbulent nature”* which was exhibited as part of SALA in Adelaide’s Light Square Gallery last year will be opening in Goolwa’s Signal Point Gallery on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

SALA Festival CEO Penny Griggs said: *“The collaboration between Country Arts SA and SALA Festival has always been strong. Regional artists and venues play a very important role in SALA’s annual celebration of South Australian visual art. The Breaking Ground Award supports and values regional artists and offers a unique platform to take their art practice down uncharted paths. It’s an exciting opportunity for regional visual artists keen to push the limits.”*

The 2019 award recipient will be announced at the SALA program launch on Friday, July 6, 2018. The winning artist’s subsequent works will be exhibited in a metropolitan gallery in July/August, during the 2019 SALA Festival.

### Applications close Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 at midnight

Artists must be a permanent resident of regional South Australia.

For more information and to apply, go to <https://www.countryarts.org.au/programs/visual-arts/breaking-ground/>

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