



Doug Parkinson, MLC

Leader of the Government in the
Legislative Council

Friday, 9 June 2006

Acquisition for prestigious wood design collection

Two unusual chaise longues by Tasmanian designers Simon Ancher and Ross Straker have been acquired for the prestigious Tasmanian Wood Design Collection.

The pieces were awarded the Premier's Acquisition Prize for 2006 after being judged the best of 34 exhibits selected for the Collection's biennial exhibition.

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council Doug Parkinson said the impressive pieces of furniture would complement the Collection which features pieces by other notable designers such as Kevin Perkins.

Opening the exhibition at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery Bond Store tonight, Mr Parkinson said the work on show reflected the great diversity of the wood medium.

"This exhibition provides a model for Tasmanian quality in design, innovation and the beauty of Tasmania's special timbers," he said.

"The State Government intends to continue to support exhibitions and awards such as this to foster quality design practice, enhance the cultural profile of Tasmania and to develop design activity as a major focus for growth in this State."

The Tasmanian Wood Design Collection was established in 1991 and is based at the Design Centre Launceston. It was formed through a series of open biennial exhibitions from which pieces are selected for acquisition.

The current exhibition was curated by the Acquisitions Advisory Panel:

- John Smith, designer and co-head of the University of Tasmania School of Furniture Design;
- Neil Erasmus, designer and academic director of the Australian School of Fine Furniture;
- Professor Roger Fay, head of the University of Tasmania School of Architecture;
- Linda Fredheim, designer and secretary of the Furniture Designers Association;
- Peter Costello, designer and board member of the Tasmanian Wood Design Collection; and
- Dr Astrid Wootton, general manager of the Design Centre and curator of the Tasmanian Wood Design Collection, Ancher, from Launceston, used exterior grade plywood for his “plied rocker” and Straker, from Hobart, incorporated plywood and sheets of closed-cell packing foam in his “duo” design.

The Tasmanian Wood Design Collection biennial exhibition will continue at the Bond Store until 13 June and will be on show at the Design Centre Launceston from 16 - 25 June.

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