

Award winning nanotechnologist to speak at Super Human exhibition

Dr Amanda Barnard, recipient of the 2009 Malcolm McIntosh Prize for Physical Scientist of the Year, will present the address at the Artists' Reception for the *Super Human: Revolution of the Species* exhibition at RMIT Gallery on Sunday 22 November.

Gallery visitors are invited to meet the exhibition artists, all active at the leading edge of creative practice, and to hear Dr Barnard speak about her equally innovative work with nanoparticles.

Dr Barnard, last year's RMIT Alumna of the Year, received the award in recognition of her work in modelling nanoparticles. She is currently a Queen Elizabeth II Australian Research Council fellow and heads CSIRO's Virtual Nanoscience Laboratory.

She said that the award recognised that nanoscience and nanotechnology are making an important and valuable contribution to the physical sciences – and to the community as a whole.

Similar themes are explored in *Super Human: Revolution of the Species* currently at RMIT Gallery until 5 December. The exhibition highlights collaborations between artists and scientists and investigates what it means to be human, now and into the future.

In her work *Drift*, exhibiting artist and RMIT lecturer Leah Heiss explores human connectivity through small scale interactive objects developed from materials engineered at the nanoscale.

"I am interested in what happens when technologies and artefacts take on personalities. While domestic appliances have computations that are premeditated – you know how your washing machine will behave – as an artist I can program devices to do different things in the art sphere and this opens them up to emergent outcomes," Ms Heiss said.

Inspired by the 150th publication anniversary of *The Origin of Species*, Darwin's evolutionary treatise, the exhibition is part of a suite of events presented by The Australian Network for Art & Technology (ANAT). The *Super Human* Symposium at BMW Edge, Federation Square on November 22-23 will continue the themes of Augmentation, Cognition and Nanoscale Interventions.

Super Human: Revolution of the Species Artists' Reception: RMIT Gallery 6-8 pm Sunday 22 November 2009. Entry free – all welcome. Bookings appreciated: 9925 1717.

Super Human: Revolution of the Species symposium: visit <http://www.superhuman.org.au/> for more information, registration and ticket sales.

For media enquiries, information and images and interviews: [Evelyn Tsitas](#), RMIT Gallery: (03) 9925 1716 or 0418 139 015.

RMIT University is a major partner to Super Human: Revolution of the Species symposium.