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MEDIA RELEASE

MU Student Union Ltd, The School of Culture and Communications and the George Paton Gallery present

Making Sense: Works by students of Experimental Projects

Exploring 'Art as a Random Process' (ARP), students in the subject *Experimental Projects* have spent the semester experimenting with the categories 'method', 'substance', 'quality', 'quantity', 'mind', 'senses', 'time' and 'place'. Each student has selected, further defined and been led by four of these categories, culminating in *Making Sense*, an exhibition that showcases forty-three highly individual interpretative outcomes.

The ethos of 'Art as a Random Process' was inspired by Carole Gray and Gordon Burnett's article 'Making Sense: an exploration of ways of knowing generated through practice and reflection in craft' (2009). It has encouraged students to develop works methodologically, rather than to a predetermined vision. Students began with nothing more than four miscellaneous categories as a framework, an artistic equation to be solved. Resolutions have been reached only through learning to truly 'know' categories and materials. Working within such a framework has proved alternatively restrictive and endlessly open. The restrictions of defined categories and the endless possibilities of experimentation has led students beyond their comfort zones and into the chaotic world of revelation and chance.

Consciously learning to be led by process, students' work has developed through and explored a diverse range of mediums. Final works on display in *Making Sense* will traverse film, sculpture, sound, painting, drawing and performance. Everything from liquorice, soil and speakers to traditional narrative based photography and film will demonstrate how 'Art as a Random Process' has fostered both sense making and making sense. With exhibiting students being final year or honours students, works in *Making Sense* will proudly exhibit skills honed under the guidance of the Creative Arts department.

Making Sense also represents the end of an era: the final year of a Creative Arts department at Melbourne University. Third year and honours students exhibiting in *Making Sense* will be among the final students to complete studies in Visual Arts at Melbourne University. *Making Sense* is the final collaboration between the George Paton Gallery and an on campus Visual Arts department. The project offers a last opportunity to view and support practical work created by students through the faculty of Creative Arts.

Making Sense: Works by Experimental Projects Students
Exhibition dates: 3rd November – 13th November, 2009
Gallery opening hours: 11am – 5pm Monday to Friday
Opening night: Wednesday 4th November 5-7pm.