



Wings pendant by finalist Carly Lampitt

Kaiserman prize to announce winners

Ten young Australian jewellers have been selected as finalists for the 2009 Kaiserman Prize, with each designing and creating a piece of jewellery for exhibition in the Kaiserman showroom throughout the final week of January.

Three winners were announced by judges on February 1, though results were not available at the time of print.

The successful three will receive studio space, materials, tools and on-going support until the launch of their first professional exhibition, a prize valued at \$7,500 per winner, according to organisers.

2009's contest was noticeable because, for the first time in the competition's three-year history, all the finalists were women and all studied jewellery at North Melbourne Institute of TAFE (NMIT).

This is also the first year a "people's choice" award is being presented, which gave visitors to the exhibition the chance to cast a vote.

"This is a fantastic opportunity. I'm honoured to be able to have the chance to take part," said finalist Breanna Timmins, who recently completed an Advanced Diploma of Engineering Technology (Jewellery) at NMIT and produced a sterling silver fob watch-pendant with interchangeable lids.

Finalist Paula Carranza, who entered Volumetric Ring – a design of branches and birds in gold-plated silver – said she would like to win for "the access to the studio and the opportunity to promote (her) work."

Fellow NMIT graduate and finalist, Claire Faulmann said she hoped to make the most of the opportunity if she won: "I hope to produce a body of work that is innovative, strong and sellable," she said.

The Kaiserman Prize is a program specifically designed to support students and graduates in their transition from

the classroom to the workplace. According to organisers, it offers a unique opportunity for those who are currently completing, or in the last 12 months have completed, formal training in a jewellery-related course, at a recognised institution anywhere in Australia.



South Sea pearl ring by finalist Emine Huseyin