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Some like it hot

By LOUISE RUSSELL

Glassblower Nicole Ayliffe has shown her works at the prestigious Victoria & Albert Museum in London, at Parliament House, Canberra, and she has an upcoming solo show at the Glassery in Stockholm.

Her distinctive glass/photography work is also on show at the Jam Factory, in the city.

Always interested in art generally, Ayliffe knew little about glass until she had to spend a day in UniSA's glass "hot shop" as part of her visual arts degree.

"I found it really exciting, the heat, the danger, and half the class going, 'oh my god, I don't want to go anywhere near it,'" she says.

Ayliffe, of Clapham, says a passion for your medium is vital for would-be professional artists, helping her to cope with huge workloads and the challenge of coming up with new ideas and techniques.

While the 2005 graduate's work

is gaining in prominence and price – some pieces have been increasing by \$1000 every year – she also works as a cleaner to "pay the mortgage".

"It's getting to the stage where I could start living off it but it's just not a regular income," she says.

"It's great when you get cheques in, but you might not get a cheque for a couple of months.

"And there's times, like at the moment, where I want to take some time to experiment and make some new works that are not necessarily going to sell."

Ayliffe, 31, says she wouldn't be a semi-professional artist without studying at the university, partly because it is the only place in SA where you can learn glass, and partly because it taught her how to develop her unusual technique.

"I didn't realise it was quite original," she says of her work, which places photographs behind a thick, polished glass sculptures to create an optical lens.



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