



Abri De Swardt  
*For What we are About to Receive,*  
2010; Video

## arthrob news

### Fresh young blood as Maties and Michaelis announce Prize winner

By Katharine Jacobs on 11 December

Jared Ginsburg is the winner of the 2010 Michaelis Prize. The announcement was made at the packed opening of the Michaelis Graduate Exhibition on Wednesday, as traffic police turned away dozens more cars still searching for parking.

Ginsburg's winning body of work comprises a projection, lithographs and an installation recreating the artist's studio. Using black ink as a signifier for oil, the body of work plays with notions of greed, censorship and conspiracy.

Artist and honorary lecturer, Penny Siopis opened the show, which tackled everything from domesticity to exile, magnetic fields to teenage partying. The show was curated this year by Nadja Daehnke, the curator of the Michaelis Galleries, and was a hit with the buyers if the proliferation of red dots is anything to go by. By Thursday morning, many students had almost sold out.

At the University of Stellenbosch graduate show, Gradex, it was Abri de Swardt who took the institution's top accolade, winning the Timo Smuts Art Prize.

De Swardt deals with 'issues of belief, Christian rituals and particularly the Eucharist', and executed his final exhibition in various media including film, installation, collage and photography. De Swardt's main work on exhibition at Gradex, *For What We Are About To Receive*, comprises a video re-enacting the Last Supper, in which actors, dressed in origami outfits and collaged masks, are pelted with bread and wine, in what De Swardt describes as a 'celebratory carnivalesque act'.

De Swardt was in the news earlier this year, as one of the Merit Award winners of the Absa L'Atelier Award and is currently speaking to galleries about the possibility of exhibiting next year.

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