

The street ahead is paved with jewellers

LOUISE NUNN, *AdelaideNow*, November 15, 2010 12:25PM

SA jeweller Jess Dare (28yrs) at the Gray Street Workshop *Source: AdelaideNow*

ADELAIDE'S internationally respected Gray Street Workshop has launched a new gallery to mark 25 years of jewellery and object design and making.

Gray Street is reinventing itself with the gallery, a new group of artists and a new seven-year lease on its Sydney Place, city, studio, founding member Catherine Truman said.

"We felt there was enough need within the local and the national arts community to keep a workshop like Gray Street going," she said. "We recently had a bench available and had an influx of applications from local and interstate artists."

Truman and fellow founding member Sue Lorraine are the only remaining long-term partners, following the departure of Julie Blyfield and Leslie Matthews this year.



They've been joined by Jess Dare, a Gray Street member of four years, and newcomers Chloe Forestal, Eliza Gregerson, Jane Bowring, Alice Potter and Sarah Rothe.

Aged from their 20s to their 50s, all of the artists are at different stages of their careers, and represent the spirit of exchange the workshop aims to foster.

From tomorrow until March work by all eight will be displayed at the gallery, a converted office space at the front of Gray Street's warehouse studio.

Then Alice Potter will hold the first of a series of Gray Street solo shows which will occupy the gallery through the year.

"We're encouraging our members to consolidate their ideas and to take risks," Truman said. "The solo exhibitions will be a chance for people to see an idea through, and it's a great opportunity for the younger artists to gain exhibition experience."

When the solo shows end the gallery will open for outside artists for exhibitions. A "day bench" for guest jewellers is available.

Gray Street Gallery opens to the public from next week on Fridays and Saturdays, 11am to 5.30pm, Sundays, 11am to 4pm, and by appointment.