

# Klose encounters of absurd kind

## ■ VISUAL ARTS

Harbant Gill

**D**RESSED in wedding white, Anastasia Klose walks the streets of Melbourne with a placard reading "Nanna I Am Still Alone" around her neck.

Walkers stare, others avert their eyes, and it's not until Klose gets to Flinders St station that a punk hugs her.

The artist, who made the video for her nanna, who keeps asking her when she's getting married, is one of six the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art has chosen for its NEW07 exhibition.

"She's going to make it big," ACCA artistic director Juliana Engberg says as we watch the show of self-deprecating humour in one of Klose's eight videos for the show.

Engberg has picked a fair few winners since starting the showcase of bright new talent five years ago.

Daniel Von Sturmer from New03, for instance, is representing Australia at the Venice Biennale this year; and Emily Floyd from New04 has been courted by top galleries.

Stuart Ringholt from New05 was last month nominated by *Artforum* magazine as one of the top 10 artists in the world to watch; and Christian Capurro from this year's show has already been invited to the Biennale.

"There's a vast list of them, and so many have had opportunities overseas," the global-networked Engberg says, naming Louise Weaver, Kathy Temin, Destiny Deacon, Sangeeta Sandrasegar and David Rozetzky among others.



**Video star:** Anastasia Klose contributes eight videos to the ACCA's NEW07 show.

Picture: DARREN McNAMARA

What's distinct about this year's group is that, unlike the minimalism revered last year, the creations have a "hand-made" quality.

"That may be a reaction against art that has become a little bit more schmick, seamless in a way," Engberg says.

"It's possible that this generation, and I think these people do represent the next generation, are less interested in finish and more interested in

engaging with a set of ideas. We are returning to more humble means to produce effects that are quite involving to an audience."

Engberg says video, for instance, had reached such a high level of production that it needed to be addressed again.

"Klose's videos are very clunky. You wouldn't say she has spent a tremendous amount of time finessing her video, trying to make them

perfect," she says. "They are deliberately quite raw ... and the songs are quite daggy — syrupy and sentimental.

"It's almost like the aesthetic of the pathetic, like crappy existentialism or something, and it's very funny.

"It's good when we see humour being introduced again and people realising they don't necessarily have to be hyper-serious all the time."

Has Klose's nanna seen the video played to the tune of Don McLean's *Castles in the Air*?

"Yes, she cried," the artist says.

## ■ NEW07

**Where:** ACCA, 111 Sturt St, Southbank, until May 20

**Entry:** free

**Details:** [www.accaonline.org.au](http://www.accaonline.org.au) or ph: 9697 9999