

Will Nolan

*One man's rubbish is another's artwork*

**BRIGHTLY coloured plastic bottle tops are some of Will Nolan's favourite things. Not brand spanking new bottle tops, mind you. The Adelaide photographer likes them damaged and distressed, worn down by life on our pavements and roads.**

"I like the ones that have a story to tell," he says. "I pick them up and put them in my pocket."

Nolan sometimes draws a sly glance or two from people in the street.

Little do they know he has spent the past few months turning these small objects of our city refuse into striking, large-scale photographs. A series of 10 are included in Nolan's new exhibition, *To Be Of Use*, opening tonight at Gallery 139 in Stepney.

They're a step on from his *Trace Elements* exhibition at 139 last year. For that show, Nolan photographed freshly painted brick walls that failed to hide their old markings.

Nolan graduated in photography from the South Australian School of Art last year but his work already has a following.

One of his bottle top photographs sold in the recent Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition, and two more will be displayed in Melbourne this month.

Nolan is one of 20 artists selected from around Australia to show in *Off the Wall*, an arm of the Affordable Melbourne Art Fair open to emerging artists yet to secure gallery representation.

Nolan and Marcin Kobylecki are the only South Australians selected for this year's event.

Nolan is understandably excited as roughly three quarters of the artists in *Off the Wall* are picked up by a gallery for an exhibition interstate. Meanwhile, Nolan is colour-coding his bottle tops and storing them in plastic takeaway food containers.

But that's not all.

"I've just started collecting everything now," he says. "It's probably not a good thing. I see stuff on the road and think, oh yeah, that might make a good photograph."

**Louise Nunn**

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