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# Beauty with a touch of ugly

**I**T'S pretty ugly . . . and they're proud of it. Two young emerging artists have combined their artistic energies to put together *Pretty/Ugly*, an exhibition that explores "the beautiful and the grotesque that sometimes plays with a strange crossover between the two".

**Daria Healy-Kolijanin** and **Shaylee Leach** moved from Mildura and the Riverland respectively to study visual arts at UniSA and found they had a common creative bond.

*Pretty/Ugly* is currently showing at The Reading Room on Hindley St. "It was crazy . . . great," Daria says of their opening night.

"I'm not very deep and meaningful in my art . . . I just love creating characters and questioning their stories.

"I get inspiration from dreams and things people stay and stuff that's going on (in my life and around me)."

Daria has been a part of White Cube Mildura, Mildura Back Lane Festival 2011 and Sketchbook project.

Shaylee is a 2011 JUMP artist and is

mentored by **Deborah Paauwe**. She has also recently been commissioned to create works for the Rundle Street Lantern by CountryArts SA and SALA moving image project.

While Daria is not one to name drop, she has a connection with South Aussie **Robyn Archer** who has been artistic director of numerous Australian and international arts festivals including the Adelaide Festival. Robyn also mentored her mum **Helen Healy** in arts event management.

"Robyn Archer is lovely," Daria says. But this young artist's inspiration comes also from Melbourne-based artist **Penny Byrne**. "She sat down with me. . . I was blown away," Daria says.

"She gave me tips on getting through uni. It's exciting to see how my work is changing . . . People my age were buying my work which is just great."

**CREATIVE FORCE:**  
 Daria Healy-Kolijanin and Shaylee Leach, whose exhibition, *Pretty/Ugly*, is on at The Reading Room.  
**Picture:**  
**BIANCA DE MARCHI**

