



# ARTISTS *in* RESIDENCE

An art couple have bought their latest exhibitions to Perth, writes ALICIA BRIDGES.

Hossein and Angela  
Valamanesh at  
Turner Galleries.  
Picture: Alf Sorbello

**A**RTISTS ANGELA AND HOSSEIN VALAMANESH share not only vows but a studio in South Australia and an exhibition in Perth this month.

Angela, a born-and-bred Adelaide local, met Hossein shortly after he emigrated from Iran in 1973.

Both artists have developed an affinity for art inspired by, or created from, aspects of the natural world.

Their current exhibition at Turner Galleries is part of the gallery's Art Angels residency program, which encourages interstate artists to exhibit in

Perth. It is the first time Perth has seen a joint exhibition by the two artists.

They are looking forward to hearing a fresh perspective from West Australians.

"This exhibition gives the opportunity of showing it to a new audience," Hossein says.

"It is a new place and a new city for us to show a reasonable body of work and we're hoping to get a different and maybe fresh response to the work which will help us in developing the work."

While the artists share a fascination for the natural world, their reactions are vastly different. Angela has referenced human organs and

microscopic parts of plant and animal anatomy to create her small ceramic sculptures.

Her work explores the less familiar parts of human, plant and animal anatomy, many of which look somewhat alien when they are viewed as a single form.

"It is using images that are drawn from nature but creating them by using clay," she says.

"They are not specifically human body parts or parts from identifiable sources.

"We started looking at anatomical views that we are not particularly familiar with.

"Everybody knows when you look at an arm or a hand but when you start looking at our internal organism, even when we look at our teeth when they have been removed from the body, they are not quite as familiar to us."

Hossein is attracted to the sensation of working with naturally formed materials.

Ladders have reappeared as images and sculptures throughout his career.

The Turner Galleries exhibition is no exception. "One (artwork) is called *Madmen Have Seen the Moon*, which includes three ladders which are interwoven into each other," he says.

"They start on a granite base and then start with a solid timber going into a more softer image of machine timber into a very transparent and translucent acrylic.

"I can't really describe what it's about ... it's more like a dream, like you see something and you want to pursue that dream, but as you go further into it it becomes less tangible or more immaterial."

★ Hossein and Angela Valamanesh.  
Today-Nov 15, Turner Galleries,  
470 William St, Northbridge.