

# An artist drawing on the feminine side

**Ron Cerabona** looks at a new exhibition at the Polish Embassy.

Some exhibitions run for a long time, others are more fleeting. An example of the latter is Agnieszka McAdam's exhibition *Sensing Femininity* which is on tonight only at the Embassy of Poland.

McAdam says the title of the exhibition, her first solo show in Canberra, "refers to my nature — it's like a part of me. I try through the paintings to find something about myself".

She says she loves drawing human figures: "The biggest challenge for a painter is to capture proportion and light. Drawing is the best medium to show the concept of organic line in the female figure."

She says that she likes to emphasise beauty in her art, not wanting to show the ugliness and terror that exist in the world.

There are 16 works in the exhibition: 11 pastel drawings



Works from *Sensing Femininity* by Agnieszka McAdam.

and five oil paintings. As well as the human forms — "I do lots of nudes, I love the human and female figure" — there are pictures of flowers and some abstract paintings. Some of the



human forms are from real models, others from photographs, and there's even self-portraiture.

McAdam describes her style as "very realistic and very,

very feminine . . . very delicate".

Last year, she exhibited in the Royal Canberra Show and won first prize in the still life competition. She was born in Poland and says painting and drawing "have always been a very strong part of myself". She loved "pastels and princesses" as a child, and some of that affection has obviously lasted through the years. McAdam qualified as an art teacher in Poland with a Masters degree in art education and exhibited in her home country. She fell in love with an Australian and married him. She has lived in Australia since October 2000.

## ***Sensing Femininity* by Agnieszka McAdam**

**Where:** The Embassy of Poland, 7 Turrana Street, Yarralumla.

**When:** Tonight from 7 to 9pm.

**Inquiries:** 6272 1000.