

# Prizewinner makes mark in risky business



**Bold and confident:** Brett Whiteley scholarship winner Nicole Kelly with one of her works at the Brett Whiteley studio in Sydney's Surry Hills yesterday

Picture: Alan Pryke

## Michaela Boland

LAST year, Nicole Kelly was one of 11 finalists for the \$25,000 Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship; this year, she was judged the winner.

Internationale des Arts in Paris, which the 22-year-old Sydney-sider, who has never been to France, will undertake next year.

Kelly, who studied photography at high school before dedicating herself to painting, said it was

"To see works I've only seen reproductions of makes such a difference," she said. "Also, if I can absorb a different culture, it's going to come out in my work."

The final-year student at the National Art School in Sydney said that despite her good fortune

what will come of this award," she said.

The scholarship, open to artists aged between 20 and 30, is run by the NSW Art Gallery, and judged by the gallery's Australian art curator Barry Pearce, its director Edmund Capon and artist John

look at the artists before her, and take risks," he said of her work.

Capon said her painting was bold and confident. "It's got spirit, that intellectual dynamic that comes out of the soul of an artist," the director said. "An artist should take risks."

The competition attracted 124