



Picture: Scott McNaughton

Plastic fantastic: Georgina Campbell loves the unpredictable nature of using plastic lens cameras.

Focus on the unpredictable

By Ryan O'Shaughnessy

THE Incinerator Arts Complex will host its sixth annual photography exhibition featuring pictures taken with plastic-lens cameras.

More than 15 photographers will exhibit their work during the Plastic Photo Show.

Organiser Georgina Campbell has five pieces in the exhibition and says

she loves the no-nonsense approach needed to use this type of camera.

"I was initially attracted to their simplicity," Campbell says.

"They have some unique qualities that really make them stand out."

Some of those characteristics include blurred edges and a painted quality that often gives them a sense of history, she says.

"The pictures tend to have a nostalgic feel to them.

"There is also an aspect of serendipity in that you never know what you might get when you develop the film."

The unpredictability is something Campbell, 30, cherishes in the face of photography's digital age.

"They are the original point-and-shoot cameras and you will often be surprised by the pictures you get," she says.

Campbell says some photographers

who use the camera don't even bother to look through the viewfinder to take pictures, relying partly on luck.

"It then becomes a very intuitive process because of that element of surprise."

Campbell's work at the Plastic Photo Show will feature five photographs with a "steam punk" theme.

Steam punk is a sub-genre that denotes works set in an era when steam power was widely used. It has

elements of fantasy and science fiction.

"I am using the same theme for my masters degree and I think the plastic lens camera really complements that subject matter."

The Plastic Photo Show is at the Incinerator Arts Complex, 180 Holmes Road, Moonee Ponds, this Friday to September 21. Details: 8325 1750.