

Media contact: Miranda Brown | T: 03 9419 0931 | E: miranda@mbpublicity.com.au

2018 Geelong contemporary art prize

Saturday 9 June to Sunday 19 August 2018

Geelong Gallery

Free entry—Open daily 10am to 5pm

Official announcement:

Friday 8 June, 6.00pm for 6.30pm

The recipient of the \$30,000 acquisitive *2018 Geelong contemporary art prize* will be announced on the evening of Friday 8 June. **To reserve a media pass contact:**

Miranda at miranda@mbpublicity.com.au

Geelong Gallery is delighted to announce that 36 works by leading and emerging Australian artists have been shortlisted for the *2018 Geelong contemporary art prize*.

Showcasing the best of contemporary Australian painting practice, this \$30,000 acquisitive award and biennial exhibition will feature works by **Natasha Bieniek, Seth Birchall, Amber Boardman, Andrew Browne, Jon Campbell, Nancy Constandelia, Yvette Coppersmith, Ann Debono, Troy Emery, Emily Ferretti, Patrick Francis, Nyarapayi Giles, Peter Graham, Camille Hannah, Katherine Hattam, Euan Heng, Gregory Hodge, Carissa Karamarko, Madeleine Kelly, Mason Kimber, Anna Kristensen, Darren McDonald, Laith McGregor, Fiona McMonagle, Amanda Marburg, Sam Martin, Tully Moore, Jan Murray, Louise Paramor, Sally Ross, Huseyin Sami, Andrew Taylor, Kate Tucker, Sharon West, Bradd Westmoreland** and **Alice Wormald**.

Selected from over 550 entries from around the country, the 36 shortlisted works for the *2018 Geelong contemporary art prize* reveal the diversity of contemporary painting practice in Australia. This year's exhibition will include paintings by some of the nation's most talented established and younger generation artists working across a broad range of subjects, genres and stylistic approaches such as landscape, the built environment, portraiture, still-life, social commentary, and abstraction.



Andrew Browne
The awakening 2017
oil on linen

Courtesy of the artist and Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne



Fiona McMonagle
Princess 2017
oil on linen

Courtesy of the artist and Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne

The selection panel for the *2018 Geelong contemporary art prize* includes guest judges, **Justin Paton** (Head Curator, International Art, Art Gallery of New South Wales) and **Rebecca Coates** (Director, Shepparton Art Museum) along with **Lisa Sullivan** (Senior Curator, Geelong Gallery).

Geelong Gallery wishes to thank the **Dimmick Charitable Trust** and **Mercedes Benz Geelong** for generously sponsoring this signature event, which assists with the development of the Gallery's collection while fostering Australian artists and contemporary painting practice in general.

Background

The *2018 Geelong contemporary art prize* continues a long tradition of prize exhibitions staged by the Geelong Gallery. From the late-1930s, the Gallery has awarded acquisitive prizes variously for paintings, watercolours and prints, sponsored by a variety of individuals and corporate supporters.

In the mid-1990s, the Geelong Art Gallery Foundation established a contemporary painting prize—the *Geelong contemporary art prize*—with the aim of showcasing the work of contemporary Australian practitioners and enriching the Gallery's permanent collection of contemporary Australian art through the acquisition of a winning work.

From 2004–10 the prize was restyled as the *Fletcher Jones art prize* in acknowledgement of the sponsorship of Fletcher Jones. In 2012, with the generous support of the Dimmick Charitable Trust, the award returned to the title of *Geelong contemporary art prize*.

Over the past 12 years, works by Kate Beynon (2016), Rob McHaffie (2014), Paul Ryan (2012), Tim McMonagle (2010), Nadine Christensen (2008), Sam Leach (2006) and Juan Ford (2004) have been acquired through this nationally significant painting prize.

Earlier winners of the Gallery's painting prizes are now amongst some of Australia's most highly regarded and notable artists such as John Young (2000), Dale Frank (1999), Janenne Eaton (1998), Lindy Lee (1997), John Nixon (1996), Dick Watkins (1991), Peter Tyndall (1989), Richard Larter (1980), Janet Dawson (1978), Peter Booth (1970), and Sydney Ball (1967). Their winning works have become some of the most significant and much-loved paintings in the Gallery's collection.

Important dates

The recipient of the *2018 Geelong contemporary art prize* will be announced on the evening of Friday 8 June (by invitation) and the exhibition of shortlisted works will be on display at Geelong Gallery from Saturday 9 June to Sunday 19 August 2018. Geelong Gallery is open daily from 10am–5pm. Admission is free.

– ends –

Media contact—

For further information, to request interviews or high-resolution images, please contact:

Miranda Brown

Exhibition sponsors

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Geelong Gallery is supported
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2 of 2

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Little Malop Street Geelong VIC 3220 | T: 03 5229 3645 | **Free entry** Open daily 10am–5pm

www.geelonggallery.org.au

**Geelong
Gallery**