

# media release

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# Geelong Gallery hosts Archibald Prize

## 22 September to 18 November 2018

Entry fees apply
Open daily 10am to 5pm

**Geelong Gallery** is delighted to be the exclusive Victorian venue for the *2018 Archibald Prize*. High profile, eagerly anticipated and often controversial, the **Art Gallery of New South Wales'** *Archibald Prize* is Australia's favourite art award, and one of its most prestigious. Awarded to the best portrait painting, it's a who's who of Australian culture, with subjects often including politicians, celebrities, sporting heroes, authors and artists.

Jason Smith, Director, Geelong Gallery said: "We are excited to present the *Archibald Prize* in Geelong for the second time in two years. There is much anticipation in the region for the return of the Prize and we look forward to presenting our community with extended opportunities to engage with artists, sitters and more generally with the genre of portraiture. We are also again delighted to present a comprehensive access and learning program, Who Are You, which we are delivering in conjunction with our partner, Gandel Philanthrophy. As part of this program, the Who's who portrait prize will incorporate works from over 1,500 children in venues throughout Geelong."

Since its inception in 1921, the *Archibald Prize* has been engaging art enthusiasts, and challenging the way we see ourselves and our society. Over the years, the prize has been awarded to many of Australia's most prominent artists.

57 portraits are exhibited in this year's exhibition including 2018 Archibald Prize winner **Yvette Coppersmith's** self-portrait and the *Packing Room Prize* winner **Jamie Preisz** for his portrait of Jimmy Barnes.

There is a strong local connection between Geelong and the Archibald Prize. Christened John Feltham, JF Archibald was born in Geelong West on 14 January 1856 and lived in the region beginning his journalism career in Warrnambool when he was 15 years old. Furthermore, a number of finalists in the 2018 Archibald Prize have connections to the region. Actor and 2018 Archibald Prize portrait subject of Anne Middleton, Guy Pearce was born and schooled in Geelong, artists Yvette Coppersmith, Fiona McMonagle, Sally Ross and Amber Boardman (as well as Benjamin Aitken's Archibald Prize subject Natasha Bienek) are all shortlisted in the 2018 Geelong contemporary art prize (currently exhibiting at Geelong Gallery). There are also portraits by artists who are represented in the Geelong Gallery collection including **Del** Kathryn Barton, Graeme Drendel, Fiona McMonagle and Sally Ross.



Archibald Prize 2018 winner

Yvette Coppersmith

Self-portrait, after George Lambert

© the artist

Photo: AGNSW



Archibald Prize 2018 finalist

Anne Middleton

Guy

© the artist

Photo: AGNSW

1 of 2

#### **About the Archibald Prize**

The Archibald Prize was established in 1921 from a bequest made by JF Archibald to the Art Gallery of New South Wales, which now awards \$100,000 prize money for the winning artist. Jules François Archibald, the founding editor of The Bulletin magazine, was a passionate supporter of a distinctly Australian style of nationalism, journalism and the arts. In establishing the prize his aim was to foster portraiture as well as support artists and perpetuate the memory of great Australians.

According to Archibald's will – held in the Art Gallery of New South Wales archive – the Archibald Prize is to be awarded annually to the best portrait 'preferentially of some man or woman distinguished in art, letters, science or politics, painted by any artist resident in Australasia'.

An open competition, the Archibald Prize is judged by the trustees of the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Entries to the Archibald Prize must be painted in the past year from at least one live sitting. In 2018, 794 entries were received for the Archibald Prize.

Entries for the Archibald Prize are eligible to be considered for the Packing Room Prize valued at \$1,500 in 2018 and the ANZ People's Choice award valued at \$3,500 (awarded at the close of the exhibition).

The Packing Room Prize was first awarded in 1991 and is chosen by the AGNSW staff who receive, unpack and hang the entries. 52 per cent of the vote towards this prize is allocated to the head of the packing room, Brett Cuthbertson.

The ANZ People's Choice award was first awarded in 1988 and is voted for by members of the public visiting the Archibald Prize exhibition at each venue. Geelong Gallery's ANZ People's Choice award will be announced in the final week of the exhibition.

### Public programs

Saturday creative conversations—Every second Saturday, hear an engaging series of conversations with 2018 Archibald Prize finalists and their sitters and invited guests. Hosted on the 5th floor of the Geelong Library & Heritage Centre, enjoy topics including 'The Prize', 'Art collectors' and 'A portrait of an artist'. Participants include **Benjamin Aitken**, **Nicholas Harding**, Michael Reid, Jonathon Dalton and Abdul Abdullah. Saturday 22 September, 13 October and 27 October from 11am. Free with

Geelong contemporary: Talking art—Geelong Contemporary hosts an evening discussion with Archibald Prize 2018 winner, Yvette Coppersmith. An after-hours preview of the exhibition with canapés and drinks provided. Friday 19 October from 6:30pm. Entry fees apply.

White Night Geelong—a city reimagined—Discover the 2018 Archibald Prize and Cuttings—Elizabeth Gower, as the Geelong Gallery comes alive during the city's inaugural White Night Festival. Hear from 2018 Archibald Prize finalist Sally Ross and see a live performance by The Huxleys. Geelong Gallery's Pop Up Café and Bar will be open until 11:00pm. Geelong Gallery closes at 2.00am.

Who's who portrait prize—This student prize marks Jules Francois Archibald's connection to Geelong and aims to encourage and inspire young artists to celebrate local or regional identities, their personal histories and achievements through portraiture. Selected entries will be exhibited across Geelong including Geelong Gallery, Westfield Shopping Centre and more from 15 September to 18 November.

Pop Up Café and Bar—Open every day during the 2018 Archibald Prize, Geelong Gallery's Pop Up Café and Bar will be a great spot to stop for coffee & cake, lunch or a drink. Proudly supported by Steampocket Catering, Leura Park Estate and Little Creatures Brewery

The Studio—Explore portraiture and play in the Geelong Gallery Studio designed for children and the young at heart to engage with portraiture in the Geelong Gallery collection. Entry fees apply.

School holiday program—A special school holiday offering, visit Geelong Gallery for a before-hours tour. Explore the exhibition and find out more about the people behind the portraits. Entry fees apply.

Visit geelonggallery.org.au for more information

#### **Entry fees-**

Adult \$16.00 | Concession \$12.00 | Child \$7.00 | Members \$10.00 | Group (over 10) \$14.00 | Family \$40.00

#### **Archibald Prize 2018**

Geelong Gallery is proudly supported by a range of partners for the Archibald Prize 2018, a touring exhibition from the Art Gallery of New South Wales.





Geelong presenting partners:





#### Silver partners:















Who Are You program partners:









Media partners:



2 of 2