



BLACK SWAN PRIZE FOR PORTRAITURE

MEDIA RELEASE

14 OCTOBER 2016

WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR WA PORTRAIT PRIZE

Rachel Coad, a West Australian professional artist from South Fremantle, has won the prestigious \$50,000 Lester Group Prize as part of the 2016 Black Swan Prize for Portraiture, WA's only portrait prize, with her portrait of artist Waldemar Kolbusz titled 'Indian Summer'.

Rachel received the \$50,000 prize donated by The Lester Group tonight at the Major Award Night at the Art Gallery of Western Australia (AGWA), attended by 600 people including The Premier WA Hon Colin Barnett MLA and Dr Stefano Carboni, Director of AGWA.

"On behalf of the Art Gallery of Western Australia, congratulations to Rachel Coad on receiving the Lester Group Prize." Dr Carboni said. "She is not only prolific but consistently regarded by judges as a leading portrait artist in WA. Last year Rachel, with her portrait of WA businesswoman and philanthropist Janet Holmes a Court, was a finalist in the Black Swan Prize for Portraiture. This year, she is a worthy winner."

The Black Swan Prize for Portraiture is celebrating its 10th year, and for the first time is partnering with AGWA as part of their Portrait Month. Rachel and the other 39 finalists artworks have been on display to the public at the gallery since 8 October 2016 and have been seen by record crowds. The exhibition continues at AGWA as part of Portrait Month until 31st October.

Judging of the 2016 Black Swan Prize for Portraiture was Director of the National Portrait Gallery, Angus Trumble, board member of the National Portrait Gallery and former Director of AGWA, Alan Dodge and local artist Thea Costanino.

Comments made by the judges: 'The winning artwork has a scale and presence and the subject's personality has been captured superbly. The artist has moved beyond the photo realism and creates a sense of nostalgia through the use of sepia tones, cutting the subject out through a white background creates tension between

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something that is nostalgic, big scale and popping. It's beautifully painted, very subtle belying the precision that it gives a few paces back. The limited information given by the artist provides a real sense of atmosphere. The soft technique is confident, consistent and feels effortless. It is a painter's painting of a painter'.

Two artists were Highly Commended and received \$500 art gift vouchers from HU Kendall & Co Art Supplies. They were Daniel Smith from Rockingham WA with his portrait of Ben Elton titled 'Thinking of you, Shakespeare' and Kate Kurucz from Kensington Gardens SA for her portrait of her father titled 'Dad and Clams'.

Judges comments on Daniel's work: 'Combined killer dead photo realist style with a beautiful sense of light, this artwork captures the subject well. The artwork reveals a flawless technique, particularly within the constraint of a black and white. It's not just hard to do, but difficult to maintain the appeal on an intimate scale. It is incredibly deliberate, precise yet intimate and tender'.

Judges comments on Kate's work: 'we responded to the work's intimate scale and its luminous quality of light. The fact that the artist decided to have the subject facing away the viewer tells us a lot about his character and personality – there is a sense of diffidence in the man which keeps drawing you back to it. The treatment is confident, warm and bold without being flamboyant'.

In an exciting new initiative – the first of its kind in Australian portrait prizes – the finalists' also voted for their favourite artwork in the \$10,000 Tony Fini Foundation Artist Prize. The winner, as chosen by their peers, was Mark Tweedie from Mt Lawley WA with his portrait of a close family friend Ken Bindle titled 'It wasn't supposed to be like this'.

The Black Swan Prize for Portraiture is the third richest prize in Australia behind the Archibald and Moran competitions. Artists were invited to submit portraits of an Australian, or Australians that they respect or admire.

The public still have an opportunity to vote in the \$7,500 Amana Living People's Choice Prize which closes on Monday 24 October 2016 at 5:00pm, with the winner being announced on the evening of 26 October 2016.

The Youth Award winners will be announced at a special award night on Wednesday 19th October.

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Ends.....

The proud sponsors/partners of the Black Swan Prize for Portraiture are:

The Art Gallery of WA (Exhibition Partner), The City of Perth (Presentation Partner), The Lester Group (Founding Partner), Amana Living (People's Choice Prize), Tony Fini Foundation (Artist Prize), Lotterywest, The Ian Potter Foundation, Brookfield, St John of God Health Care, Deloitte, Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority, Westpac Community Foundation, Spinifex Trust, Forbes Partners, HU Kendall & Co, Squire Patton Boggs Youth Arts Foundation, Artsedge Photo and Frame, Mondoluce, WASP, Jaz Design, International Art Services, The Lions Club City of Perth, Alex Hotel, Singapore Airlines, Abbott & Co Printers, Heyder & Shears

www.blackswanprize.com.au

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EXHIBITION DETAILS

Main Exhibition

Dates: 8 - 31 October 2016

Times: 10:00am - 5:00pm daily (closed Tuesdays)

Location: Art Gallery of WA, Perth Cultural Centre, WA.

Cost: Free to attend

Youth Award Exhibition

Dates: 3 - 21 October 2016 (original artworks)

Times: 8:00am - 6:00pm weekdays only

Location: Tower 1, Brookfield Place, 125 St Georges Terrace, Perth, WA

Cost: Free to attend

Original artworks will be on display at Brookfield Place, whilst a printed exhibition of select youth artworks will be showcased at the Perth Cultural Centre from 18 - 31 October 2016.

Salon des Refusés

Dates: 3 - 21 October 2016

Times: 8:00am - 6:00pm weekdays only

Location: Tower 2, Brookfield Place, 125 St Georges Terrace, Perth, WA

Cost: Free to attend

Touring Exhibition

Dates: 7 November – 4 December 2016

Times: Open hospital hours

Location: St John of God Hospitals: Murdoch, Midland and Subiaco campuses.

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