

MEDIA RELEASE

December, 2015

WHYALLA ART PRIZE AT THE ADELAIDE FESTIVAL CENTRE

19 SELECTED WINNERS AND FINALISTS from the prestigious Whyalla Art Prize will be shown in a curated exhibition at the Adelaide Festival Centre over the summer holiday season.

The exhibition, opening in the Festival Theatre Foyer on Wednesday, December 16, will showcase the top works entered into Country Arts SA's biennial \$25,000 prize which attracted 212 entrants from around the country.

The Middleback Arts Centre in Whyalla has displayed 71 pieces that were chosen as finalists since September. Country Arts SA's Visual Arts Coordinator, Eleanor Scicchitano is happy with the work selected from those finalists to represent the award at the Festival Centre.

"Exhibiting works at the Adelaide Festival Centre is an opportunity for the Whyalla Art Prize to showcase the diversity and high quality of the works entered," said Ms Scicchitano.

"The exhibition will show the work of all winners including the people's choice, the works that were highly commended by the judges and works from the youth category."

Established in 1972 by the Whyalla Arts Council, the Whyalla Art Prize was conceived as an opportunity to promote the work of emerging regional artists. Since this time the Prize has undergone significant changes opening up entries to artists from around metro and regional Australia and introducing awards aimed at encouraging young South Australian artists.

Not only one of the richest art prizes on any theme within Australia, the finalists' exhibition has come to be seen as an important survey of contemporary Australian art practice.

Open to two-dimensional artworks on any theme, this year the Whyalla Art Prize strongly encouraged moving image artists to submit works, continuing the strong focus on contemporary art practice in regional Australia.

The \$25,000 prize, which was open for submissions between March 1 and May 29 this year, was awarded to Tasmanian artist Paul Snell, for his plexiglass mounted piece *Intersect #201504*. Whyalla local Olivia White took out the \$2,000 OneSteel and Arrium Mining Most Promising Young SA Artist 18 to 26 years for her oil piece *Space between Spaces: Unknown* and Fenella Hall from Mt Barker received the \$1,000 OneSteel and Arrium Mining Most Promising Young SA Artist 17 years of age and under for her watercolour *A Beautiful Menace*.

The three judges for the Prize were Susan Jenkins, Senior Curator at the Anne and Gordon Samstag Museum of Art; Grant Hill, winner of the 2013 City of Whyalla Art Prize and David Broker, Director of the Canberra Contemporary Art Space, who explained how they narrowed down the finalists.

"We had to choose work that spoke not only of composition and technical skill, but had something that elicits a response in the viewer," said Broker.

All winning pieces will be on display at the Adelaide Festival Centre.

WHYALLA ART PRIZE PIECES AT THE ADELAIDE FESTIVAL CENTRE

Ben Howe (Mount Eliza, Vic)	Data Impression #1
Chelsea Berriman (Whyalla, SA)	Puppy Love
Diego Ramirez (Thornbury, Vic)	aXolotl's Happiness
Fenella Hall (Mt Barker, SA) <i>Winner Most Promising Young SA Artist Under 18 Years of Age \$1000 non-acquisitive</i>	A Beautiful Menace
Henry Witjika Young (Irruntju Community, WA)	Who will keep my Grandfather's stories when they close down our home? (Irruntju W.A.)
James Dodd (Adelaide, SA)	Orange Scratch Surface
Joel Plevin (Wilmington, SA)	Island Sheds
Katy Woodroffe (Sandy Bay, Tas)	The Legacy of Great Great Aunt Susan
Laura Wills (Adelaide, SA)	Floodlands
Leith O'Malley (Whyalla Jenkins, SA)	The Trojan Horse (the ore price cometh)
Linda Greedy (One Mile, NSW)	Freak Out
Matthew Quick (Collingwood, Vic)	Home of the Brave
Mostyn Bramley-Moore (Gumdale, Qld)	Windblown Still Life
Neil Hann (Port Germein, SA)	Beyond Sacred Canyon Cave
Olivia White (Whyalla, SA) <i>Winner Most Promising Young SA Artist 18 to 26 Years of Age \$2000 non-acquisitive</i>	Space Between Spaces: Unknowns
Paul Snell (Launceston, Tas) <i>Overall winner</i>	Intersect #201504
Sam Thompson (Crafers, SA)	Hahndorf Property
Tania Burkett (Forrest Lodge, NSW)	Are You Looking at Me?
Tom Phillips (Adelaide, SA)	Man in Room

Media enquiries: Joy Lothian Joy.Lothian@countryarts.org.au or (08) 8444 0417 / 0423 828 03