

Media release

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2015 City of Albany Art Prize - winners

The winners of the 2015 City of Albany Art Prize were announced last night at the official launch of the annual exhibition.

The City of Albany Art Prize, sponsored by the Jack Family Charitable Trust, is a national showcase for Australian contemporary painting and features a \$25,000 Major Acquisitive Prize. 30 finalists from around Australia were selected from over 400 entries.

Winner - \$25,000 Major Acquisitive Prize

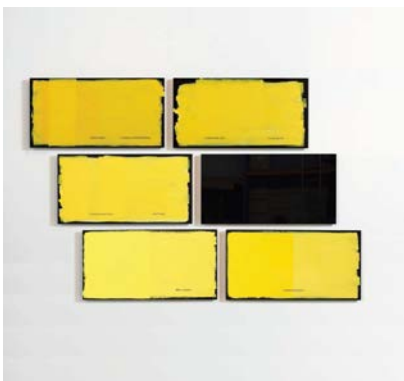


Richard Lewer (Victoria)
"Untitled" 2014
Oil on epoxy coated steel.
100 x 100cm

Judges' Comments

"Richard Lewer's painting stood out as a work which was both timeless and completely of its time. The seemingly simple composition of a shark hanging against a turbulent ocean belies a complex issue, personally felt and universally debated. The sacrificial shark is both a victim and predator, and Lewer has painted it like an upturned obelisk, an inverted monument - totemic, but a dubious trophy. The gritty and grim scene is reflected in texture and palette, and Richard Lewer's virtuosity in the handling of oil paint upon a steel surface give the work its charge, creating a dark but instantly iconic painting."

Winner - \$2,500 Commendation Award



Jurek Wybraniec (Western Australia)
"Gone (Scene1)" 2015
2-pac paint on laser etched acrylic, aluminium
100 x 150cm

Judges' Comments

"Jurek Wybraniec's work is compelling in the exquisite attention to every single detail of its making and presentation: from the 6 rectangular acrylic bricks, to the rhythmic application of the yellow industrial paint, to the laser etched subtitles. It is one of the few paintings that directly engage the viewer to import their own visuals to the piece. The reflective single black panel literally puts you in the picture, for a moment the viewer becomes the protagonist of Wybraniec's short silent film, but constantly switches between observing and participating."

The major acquisitive prize also includes a four week studio residency in a self-contained cottage at the Vancouver Arts Centre in Albany with \$2,500 for associated expenses.

The People's Choice winner will be announced after the close of the exhibition.

(Continues)

Statement from Winner – Richard Lewer

I am delighted to accept this award and would like to thank the Jack Family Charitable Trust and City of Albany for their continued support of it, and the judges for selecting this work.

The work was made in response to the shark culling program initiated whilst I was living in WA. Since making the work, shark encounters appear to have escalated both locally and internationally, making this subject very topical.

I'm very much looking forward to the residency in Albany, exploring the area and meeting the locals.

Statement from Jurek Wybraniec

I'm grateful to be the recipient of the Highly Commended Prize for 2015. I would like to thank the City of Albany and staff for their hard work in managing and curating the Art Prize also, I would like to acknowledge The Jack Family Charitable Trust for sponsorship.

Thank you to the judges this year, Leigh Robb and Meryl Ryan.

Highly Commended

The judges would like to make a special mention of the following artists for the high quality of the work, the deftness of the painting technique, and the rigour of their ideas:

- Anh Do
- Kitty Malarvie
- Christopher Hopewell
- Alice Wormald
- Nathan Taylor

The 2015 City of Albany Art Prize Exhibition is open daily from 10 – 4 in Carol Pettersen Hall (inside Albany Town Hall) until 11 October.

Members of the public are encouraged to vote in the People's Choice Award either in person at the exhibition or online.

2015 City of Albany Art Prize – Judges

- Leigh Robb, Curator –Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, (PICA),
- Christopher Pease – Contemporary Artist, WA (Pre -selection only – unable to make final prize winner selection)
- Meryl Ryan – Curator from Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, NSW



Judges Leigh Robb (left) and Meryl Ryan in front of the winning artwork "Untitled" by Richard Lewer. Photo: Indra Geidans

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Images / further information available on request: contact Indra Geidans (9841 9423) or Keir Tunbridge (9841 9344)