



# Media release

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## **2014 Great Southern Art Award judging panel announced**

Albany's cultural calendar is set to come alive again with the 2014 Great Southern Art Award running from April 18 – May 18.

The award is a central event on the region's cultural calendar, and enriches the community by encouraging and supporting emerging and established Great Southern artists.

This year the City of Albany has engaged three highly professional and well-regarded judges for the judging panel, Sue Starcken, Indra Geidans and Michelle Frantom, all of whom represent a broad knowledge and understanding of the visual arts.

**Sue Starcken** is a practising artist and the curator of the Edith Cowan University art collection, bringing her wealth of experience to the judging panel. She has written essays for publication, lectured, exhibited in seventeen group shows and won three print awards.

**Indra Geidans** is possibly best known locally as the 2009 City of Albany Art Prize winner. Her works are included in many Western Australian universities and local government collections as well as the Art Gallery of WA. In 2013 Indra was selected to produce a public art commission for Denmark High School in collaboration with Kevin Draper and she has continued to teach through the Vancouver Arts Centre workshop programs.

**Michelle Frantom** recently showed with the MIX artists a digital drawing/time-lapse video artwork for "Web" at the Albany Town Hall, a PIAF Great Southern Festival project, and has experience as a lecturer in art theory and practice, Aboriginal art, visual art and design at both University and TAFE level.

The Vancouver Arts Centre has selected individuals to serve as judges who have distinguished themselves in their field and who demonstrate curatorial and/or artistic skill and judgment. Having a mix of experience was also important in choosing the panel.

The Great Southern Art Award has a high level of community ownership and the judging process is taken seriously by the City and the community.

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This year there will be six award categories up for grabs, as follows. All awards are non-acquisitive and judged by the panel.

**1. Career Development Award**

Awarded to a Great Southern artist with some experience to encourage their development.

**Prize:** \$3000 award, and a solo exhibition supported by the VAC or a VAC residency of 2 weeks

**2. Painting Award**

Awarded to an artwork of any subject using oil or acrylic medium.

**Prize:** \$1000

**3. Works on Paper Award**

Awarded to an artwork of any subject using watercolour, drawing, pastel, print and papercuts

**Prize:** \$1000 cash prize

**4. Photo Media Award**

Awarded to an artwork of any subject

**Prize:** \$1000

**5. 3-Dimensional Award**

Awarded to an artwork of any subject for display on a plinth, free standing or wall hung

**Prize:** \$1000

**6. Popular Choice Award**

Awarded to an artwork of any subject and medium voted by the public. Announced after the exhibition closes to the public

**Prize:** \$1000

The Great Southern Art Award will be open for viewing at the Vancouver Arts Centre from April 18 to May 18.

The exhibition will be open from 9-4pm on weekdays and 10-3pm on weekends and public holidays.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.albany.wa.gov.au/facilities/vancouver-arts-centre/-great-southern-art-award/>

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**Note: interviews are available upon request.**