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Hadley's Art Prize attracts top Australian artists

Some of Australia's most pre-eminent landscape artists have been named finalists in what's believed to be the world's richest landscape art prize—the Hadley's Art Prize – announced today.

Well-known Australian artists from across the country, including Philip Wolfhagen (TAS), Neil Haddon (TAS), Timothy Cook (NT), Danie Mellor (NSW), Fiona Lowry (NSW), Mary Tonkin (VIC), Emma Theyers (QLD) and Andrew Browne (VIC), are among 33 finalists in the annual acquisitive prize, now in its third year, worth a lucrative \$100,000.

The finalists, selected from over 630 entries from as far afield as the Tiwi Islands, were chosen by a panel of three national art specialists – well-known Tasmanian artist, Raymond Arnold, Senior Research Curator at MONA, Jane Clark, and art writer, curator and gallerist, Susan McCulloch OAM—under the guidance of Prize Curator, Dr Amy Jackett.

Dr Jackett was pleased to see finalists represented from all states and territories and said the winning artwork will be that which best portrays the Australian landscape.

“The finalists' exhibition is going to be truly impressive this year,” Dr Jackett said.

“The artworks will be available for purchase so it's certainly an exhibition art-lovers should put in their diaries,” she said.

Prize Judge, Susan McCulloch OAM, said the panel felt finalists' works expressed a diversity of ideas about the Australian landscape, its history and structure.

“Each of the artworks selected is an individual expression of rendered forms,” Ms McCulloch said.

“Many 'shape shift' through glittering patternation, expressive colour flow and darkly poetic gesture,” Mr Arnold added.

Last year's Hadley's Art Prize winner, Tasmanian artist Neil Haddon, said he was thrilled to again be chosen as a finalist, though he didn't hold high hopes of taking out the top gong a second time around.

“Winning the Hadley's Art Prize last year was a little surreal to be honest,” Mr Haddon said.

In addition to the overall prize, to be announced on 19 July, four highly commended awards worth \$2,500, a Packing Room Prize worth \$1,000.

Other will also show their works in the Finalists' Exhibition at Hadley's Orient Hotel from 20 July- 18 August.

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