

MEDIA RELEASE
Friday, 19 July 2019

New indigenous artist named winner of the 2019 *Hadley's Art Prize*

A close-knit indigenous community in Pupunya, 250km north-west of Alice Springs, will be celebrating today as emerging artist Carbiene McDonald Tjangala was announced the winner of the *2019 Hadley's Art Prize*.

Mr McDonald Tjangala lives at Blackwater Outstation – a Homeland outside of the remote community of Pupunya. His winning artwork, entitled *Four Dreamings*, depicts four dreamtime stories which he inherited from his father.

“These tjukurpa are associated with a series of waterholes running between Docker River and Kata Tjuta,” Mr McDonald Tjangala said.

Papunya Tjupi Arts Centre Manager, Emma Collard, said Mr McDonald Tjangala had only started painting later in life, beginning his career as an artist under a year ago as part of the Centre's Men's Art and Culture Revival program.

“Carbiene has become one of Papunya Tjupi's most exciting emerging artists, with his recent achievements showcasing his dedication and belief in himself as well as inspiring other young men in Papunya,” Ms Collard said.

“Not only has he had his first solo sell-out show at Raft Artspace in Alice Springs earlier this year, but he has already exhibited nationally with galleries such as Outstation Gallery and internationally with Art Kelch, in Germany.

“Carbiene's winning of the 2019 Hadley's Art Prize is a huge achievement for both himself and the Art Centre. It's the biggest award that a Papunya Tjupi Artist has ever received, and we are thrilled to be celebrating this success with him.”

Each year, the *Hadley's Art Prize* is judged by a panel of three national art specialists. This year's judges include well-known Tasmanian artist, Raymond Arnold, Senior Research Curator at MONA, Jane Clark, and art writer, curator and gallerist, Susan McCulloch OAM.

Judge, Susan McCulloch OAM, said the innovation in Mr McDonald Tjangala's painting was very impressive and exemplified confidence, power and subtle poetry.

“The piece's quality of shimmer harks back to paintings of the artist's forebears but brought into being in a completely new and unique way,” Ms McCulloch said.



Hadley's Art Prize

HOBART

“The intensity of light in the work is mirage-like – it is blinding and mesmerising. The surface textures are at once subtle and incredibly powerful in a way that’s beyond translation into any digital reproduction.

“While being deeply rooted in a particular place, this painting would stand up in the company of any art. You really have to see this work in person.”

Four Highly Commended Awards, worth \$2,250 each, were also presented to artists Betty Pula Morton, Tony Smibert, Philip Wolfhagen and Faridah Cameron. A Packing Room Prize worth \$1,000 was also awarded to Tasmanian artist Nigel Hewitt.

Prize Curator Dr Amy Jackett said the prize, awarded for the best portrayal of Australian landscape, had attracted an unprecedented response this year, with more than 630 entries from across the country and as far afield as the Tiwi Islands.

“I encourage people to come and experience the work of these incredible contemporary Australian landscape artists, both established and emerging, and especially to have their say in deciding the winner of the \$10,000 University of Tasmania and Mercury’s People’s Choice Award,” Dr Jackett said.

The finalists’ exhibition, which opens to the public tomorrow, will be showcased in a custom-designed gallery space, which has been fully fitted to accommodate contemporary art, while respecting the heritage of Hadley’s Orient Hotel.

Over the next month, the space will play host over to a number of related events, including an ensemble performance from members of the TSO, panel discussion for National Science Week, as well as the much-anticipated ‘Comedian and the Curator’ event with Tasmanian Logie Award-winning comedian, Luke McGregor.

“There are some great events on offer to enrich people’s experience of the exhibition, many of which are free. Tickets can be booked through the Hadley’s Art Prize website,” Dr Jackett said.

The *Hadley’s Art Prize* is an acquisitive award, with the winning entry added to a permanent art collection at Hadley’s Orient Hotel, which is open to the public.

It is believed to be the world’s most lucrative landscape art award and is fast cementing itself as one of Australia’s most coveted art prizes.

ENDS

Media enquiries:

Jacque Ray – Timmins Ray Public Relations: 0429 683 779



HADLEY'S ORIENT HOTEL
34 Murray Street
Hobart, Tasmania, 7000
Phone: +613 6237 2999
www.hadleyshotel.com.au