

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**18 March 2020**

## ***Hadley's cancels 2020 Art Prize***

Australia's richest art prize has announced today it will cancel its 2020 event, due to the Coronavirus pandemic and in line with the Australian Government's most recent recommendations.

The Tasmanian-based Hadley's Art Prize, now in its fourth year, was scheduled to announce its \$100,000 winner at the opening of its Finalists' Exhibition at Hadley's Orient Hotel in July this year.

Prize Curator, Dr Amy Jackett made the following statement:

*It is with great regret that I advise we have made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Hadley's Art Prize due to the Coronavirus outbreak. For everyone at Hadley's Orient Hotel this is an incredibly upsetting decision but given the most recent government recommendations and the high level of uncertainty around future safety protocols, transport of works, domestic travel, and public gatherings, we see this action as necessary.*

*The Hadley's Art Prize has fast become a valued part of the Australian art scene and while we have contemplated ways we might push on this year, there is no way to suitably mitigate the risks. Public safety must always take priority.*

*As a relatively new prize, our brand is so delicate and we are confident, along with many others in this dreadful position, that the best outcome is to ensure everyone's safety this year and make sure 2021 is the best Hadley's Art Prize so far.*

*Our objective remains to present high quality art to the Tasmanian community and the many visitors who travel to Hobart to enjoy our finalists' exhibition in July/August and we look forward to doing just that next year.*

All entries, which were due to close on 6 April, will be fully refunded.

Ends.

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