Final Selection of the 2008 JADA

A panel of one artists, four public gallery directors and one private gallery director had the difficult task of selecting 48 works from 381 entries in the prestigious 2008 Jacaranda Acquisitive Drawing Award (JADA). The competition is always severe for this award.

For the first time art works were selected from all the states and territories of Australia. Sixteen of the selected artists were from the North Coast region of New South Wales, thirteen from the metropolitan areas of Australia and the remaining 29 from the regional areas of Australia.

The award is the flagship of the Grafton Regional Gallery and it is very encouraging to see the JADA maintaining its strength and continuing to promote excellence in Australian contemporary drawing.

The selection panel consisted of Gallery Director Jude McBean and four other arts industry professionals. The other members were Nicolas Kachel, Director of the John Gordon Gallery, Pam Fysh, Artist, Vice President of the Friends of the Gallery and Board Member of The Gallery Foundation, Stephen Alderton, Director, Lismore Regional Art Gallery and Susi Muddiman, Director of Tweed River Art Gallery”.

Artists from the North Coast of NSW include Christine Willcocks from Mullumbimby, Robert Moore from Grafton, Mike Riley from Dorrigo, Jan Davis from Tullera, Robyn Sweeney form Mullumbimby, Rochelle Summerfield from Ocean Shores, John Smith from Eureka, Alison Williams from Grafton, Therese O’Connell from Woodburn, Angus McDonald from Lennox Head, Nigel Killaea from Coffs Harbour, Katka Adams from Clunes, Michael Cusack from Byron Bay, Gary Jolley from Dunoon and Peter Bellew from Lismore.

Other outstanding national artists include Wendy Sharpe, Godwin Bradbeer, Katherine Hattam, Anna Hoyle, Anne Judell, Deborah Klein and Gosia Wlodarczak.

In 2008 the award celebrates 20 years of promoting innovation and excellence in Australian drawing and has increased to $30 000 to coincide with this important anniversary. The major award of $15,000 sponsored by the Friends of the Gallery is acquisitive, along with further acquisitions to the value of $15,000.

Hendrik Kolenberg, Senior Curator of Australian Prints, Drawings and Watercolours Art Gallery of New South Wales, is the judge for this year’s prize.

Acquisitions from the Jacaranda Drawing Award (JADA) enter the Grafton Regional Gallery’s nationally recognised collection of Australian contemporary drawing.
The winner and the acquisitions will be announced by the judge at the Official Opening of the JADA 2008 to be held at the beginning of the Jacaranda Festival at 6pm on Friday 24 October.

The Jacaranda Acquisitive Drawing Award was originally an open national art award, the Jacaranda Art Prize, that ran from 1961 to 1987, the drawing award was established in 1988. The drawing collection includes works by Maria Kontis, Michael Zavros, Gordon Bennett, Godwin Bradbeer, Andrew Browne, Luke Doyle, David Fairbairn and Deborah Klein.

The Grafton Regional Gallery is located at 158 Fitzroy Street Grafton and is open 10am to 4pm from Tuesday to Sunday.

Release Ends

Further information / images: Contact Public Programs Officer, Rose Marin on 02 6642 3177
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