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PRESS RELEASE

Date:	4 May 2011
Subject:	Mosman Youth Art Prize Winners Announced
Date of Release:	EMBARGOED UNTIL: 7 MAY 2011
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MOSMAN YOUTH ART PRIZE WINNERS ANNOUNCED.

Young artists from the Northern Beaches and Northern Suburbs have won a high number of awards in the annual Mosman Youth Art Prize which were announced to a large crowd on Friday night 6 May. There were close to 300 entries this year with 212 selected for exhibition with 52 prizes awarded.

The **judge Leanne Carr**, who selects and curates works for Art Express at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, said that she was impressed by the quality of the works and the range of mediums used – especially in the sculptures. “The exhibition looks very strong as some of the works are highly technical and inspiring. Obviously there is a lot of interest in your prize and the entrants have worked hard to create imaginative work.” she said.

The judge was particularly impressed by the **1st Prize Senior Painting** winner **Christine Chen 16** from **Pymble Ladies College** for her landscape painting **Autumn** and thought her painting skills “extraordinary” for a young artist. This will be the last year for prize winner **Andrew Smith of St Ives** to be in the Prize as he is now 20. His heavy impasto portrait painting of Archibald Prize winner **Ben Quilty** will be a popular work in the exhibition and Andrew hopes to succeed as Quilty has in his painting career.

Mosman High again had a strong contingent of entrants with **Eliza Slater 17** winning for her giant goldfish linocut print **Safety in Numbers**, and **Alex Powrie 18** for his reassembled bicycle sculpture **Machine Turns Slowly**. Young photographer **Shenise Hanson 13** from **Cromer Campus** won first prize for Photography with her beautiful and subtle close up of a girls eye, titled **Be Happy, Love Everyone**.

Students from **Eastern Suburbs Private Schools Sceggs Darlinghurst**, **Kincoppal at Rose Bay** and **Cranbrook at Bellevue Hill** were also keen contenders for the prizes with 13 year old **Avril Bradbury Heath** from Kincoppal winning 1st prize for Printmaking with her untitled work.

This was the first year that one of Australia’s most prestigious and oldest art schools The National Art School has become a sponsor with the offer of a special place in their Art Lab or Short Course

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programs for senior students. Young film maker Chester Buchanan 18 from the International Grammar School was chosen by the National Art School for this award and also as the winner of the Film and Video category. His award winning entry of a contemporary Alice in a digital Wonderland will be projected on the Gallery walls during the exhibition.

Mosman Art Gallery Director John Cheeseman who is now in his second year at the Gallery said “The 2011 Mosman Youth Art Prize really hits the mark – it is a fabulous kaleidoscope of the dreams and talents of Australia’s most promising young and emerging artists. I love the range of art the exhibition attracts – the incredible variety of paintings, drawings and prints on display are complemented with fabulous photographic works, playful sculptures and extraordinary video works. Of course the exhibition would not be possible without the ongoing generosity of our sponsors. “

The exhibition continues until the 29th of May.