

I want to extend my congratulations to all of the over 1300 artists for submitting such an incredible array of work. It truly serves as a testament to the significance of the Mosman Art Prize in the Australian art scene. What struck me most was the remarkable diversity and the unwavering commitment to painting evident in Australia today. There was an expansive range of styles, themes, and techniques on display, with each piece possessing its own unique voice. Narrowing down the entries to just over 90 was a formidable task, and selecting a winner from such a incredible collection of works was by no means an easy undertaking.

Mosman Art Prize (major acquisitive prize) - \$50,000

David, is an artist whose practice I've followed closely and deeply admired since his earliest exhibitions. I admire his capacity to consistently evolve his paintings and relentlessly challenge the limits of creativity. In this particular piece, he dissects a countenance altered by the excision of a melanoma. The artwork vividly presents the aftermath of this transformation, laying bare the raw incisions and the haunting experience of one's face being violated and laid bare.

Margaret Olley Commendation Award supported by Gillian and the late Brian Jones - \$6,000

Huseyin Sami

Bucket Painting, 2022

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

152 x 122 cm

Huseyin Sami's work delves into various art forms, including painting, sculpture, and installation, to investigate elements of time, action, and procedure. His work employs a range of techniques such as pouring, dripping, rolling, stretching, and cutting dried household paint. In this work 'Bucket Painting' he explores color, shape, and the material essence of household paint, his work dissects the essence of painting, establishing what he terms as "a distinctive material form of expression within painting."

Allan Gamble Award supported by Christine and the late Hugh Fraser - \$3,000

Lewis Ihnatko

Red River, 2023

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

71 x 51 cm

On my initial encounter with Lewis's painting "Red River," echoes of Anthony Kiedis's poignant lyrics from "Under the Bridge" surfaced vividly in my mind. The artwork drew me in, capturing the essence of Kiedis' reflection on drug use and solitude. In Lewis's composition, an unsettling scene unfolds's - an enigmatic figure cruising by on a bicycle, casting an intense gaze upon two twisted faces, engaged in a cloaked conversation beneath a bridge. The figures appear engrossed in a mysterious activity, their predicament veiled within the crimson hues of the sky and the river, leaving us to ponder their obscured narrative.

Guy Warren Emerging Artist Award (35 years and under) supported by Fourth Village Providore - \$2,000

Heath Nock

The Weirdos, 2023 oil on linen 122 x 102 cm

Heath Nock's artwork, titled "The Weirdos," portrays two peculiar entities characterised by hollow cavities and eyes expressing anguish. These bizarre objects intertwine with a sinuous thread. The painting resists easy interpretation, beckoning viewers to delve beyond the surface, into a realm that resonates with the subconscious. It constructs a dreamlike space, inviting contemplation on the intricacies of feeling or existing in a manner that deviates from the norm.