

# MEDIA RELEASE



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For immediate release

## Major financial boost to Australia's most prestigious open painting prize



Mosman Art Gallery is proud to announce a \$30,000 first prize in this year's Mosman Art Prize. This represents a 50% increase over the last year's figure and better aligns the financial attraction of the Prize with its status in the art world. Other awards for the Commendation Prize and Young Emerging Artists Awards have also been doubled.

Now in its 64<sup>th</sup> year, the Mosman Art Prize is the most prestigious open painting prize in Australia today. Unlike other prizes such as the Archibald or Blake prizes, entrants to the Mosman Art Prize may enter regardless of style, subject matter or theme.

"The Mosman Art Prize is a celebration of painting as a vital artistic medium," says gallery director John Cheeseman. "In this digital age we want to show how older art forms still pack a punch, both challenging artists and delighting audiences alike. We expect over 800 artworks to be entered this year and many thousands of visitors to come and see these works during the exhibition at Mosman Art Gallery."

The Mosman Art Prize is an annual, acquisitive award for painting sponsored by Mosman Municipal Council. Established in 1947, the Prize is one of the oldest and most prestigious local government art awards in Australia. The winning works form an outstanding collection of modern and contemporary art, reflecting developments in Australian art practice over the last half a century. The winner of the first Mosman Art Prize, judged by Lloyd Rees in 1947, was Margaret Olley. Subsequent Prize winners include many prominent artists such as Grace Cossington Smith, Weaver Hawkins, Nancy Borlase, Anthony Galbraith, Elisabeth Cummings, Janet Dawson, Jenny Sages and Tim Johnson. The 2010 Mosman Art Prize was won by Craig Waddell.

The 2011 Mosman Art Prize will be judged by Reg Richardson AM, arts patron, supporter and art collector. Past adjudicators of the Prize have also included prominent figures in the Australian art world such as Margaret Preston, John Olsen, Tim Storrier, Edmund Capon and Margaret Olley.

The *Mosman Art Prize* is an acquisitive award of \$30,000 sponsored by Mosman Council. The Council also provides a 'Commendation Prize' of \$2,000, the 'Viewers' Choice Award' of \$1,000 is sponsored by The Mosman Art Society. The 'Young Emerging Artists Award' (under 35 years), \$2,000, is sponsored by Fourth Village Providore.

In addition to the major prize of \$30,000, Mosman Council also sponsors the Allan Gamble Memorial Art Prize. An accomplished architect and artist, and Mosman Councillor for 24 years, Allan Gamble was the founder of the Mosman Art Prize. Valued at \$3,000 (non-acquisitive), this prize will be awarded to the best painting, which explores the theme of 'the built environment'.

The official opening and announcement of the *2011 Mosman Art Prize* will take place on Friday, 29 July, beginning at 6.30pm at the Mosman Art Gallery.

**Artists may submit up to two entries at a fee of \$50 per entry. Entry forms can be completed on-line with receipt of entries on Monday 18 July – please see [www.mosmanartgallery.org.au](http://www.mosmanartgallery.org.au) for details.**

## **Mosman Art Prize**

Exhibition dates: Saturday 30 July – Sunday 4 September 2011

### **Public Programs**

#### **Winning artist's talk (Date to be confirmed)**

The Mosman Art Prize winning artist and other prize winners discuss their work in the exhibition.

#### **Free Guided Tour**

Saturday 6 August 11am

Mosman Art Gallery

Cnr Art Gallery Way and Myahgah Rd, Mosman.

Open 7 days 10.00am – 5pm. Free

(02) 9978 4178

[www.mosman.nsw.gov.au](http://www.mosman.nsw.gov.au)

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