



MEDIA RELEASE

23 April 2019

CALL FOR ENTRIES FOR WA'S \$50,000 PORTRAIT PRIZE—SAME PRIZE. DIFFERENT FACE.

Submissions are now open for both adult and youth categories for WA's premier portrait prize—The Lester Prize. Formally known as The Black Swan Prize for Portraiture, this award is one of the country's richest prizes for portraiture and is now in its thirteenth year. It was renamed recently in honour of the award's leading patron, Richard Lester.

Along with the new name comes a new look for the Prize. The look reflects both the quality of the awards and its approachability.

The prize pool available to professional, emerging and young artists is now over \$70,000. More than 500 artists from across Australia will be vying for The Richard Lester Prize for Portraiture (selected by a panel of judges). The winner will take home \$50,000 cash plus two economy class return tickets to any Singapore Airlines destination valued at \$3,500. 3,500 artists have entered the prestigious adult competition since its inception in 2007.

The other prizes are the \$10,000 Tony Fini Foundation Artist Prize (selected by artists' peers), the \$7,500 Baldock Family People's Choice Award (selected by the general public) and \$1,000 cash plus \$250 art supplies each for two highly commended artists from Oxlades.

The Youth Portraiture Prize for high school students across Australia continues to expand with over 200 student entries expected this year. Nearly 1,200 students have entered the Youth prize since 2008.

The adult finalists' works will be open to the public once again at the Art Gallery of Western Australia (AGWA) in the Centenary Galleries from 9 November – 9 December 2019, with the winner announced on 8 November 2019. Youth finalist works and Salon de Refusés works (which will now be selected from entrants across the country and featured digitally on the big screen as well as on outdoor exhibition panels) will be on display during this time at Brookfield Place and various other locations around Perth city.

Submissions close for the adult prize on 19 July 2019, and the youth prize a week later on 26 July 2019. Finalists for both competitions will be announced on 16 August 2019.

Artists from across Australia are invited to submit portraits of an Australian, or Australians, that they respect or admire, or a self-portrait. Full Terms & Conditions are available via www.lesterprize.com.

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The Lester Prize

ABOUT THE LESTER PRIZE

The Lester Prize is managed by The Lester (formerly ARTrinsic Inc), a not-for-profit organisation, founded in 2007 by Tina Wilson to provide an avenue for artists to exhibit works of portraiture within Western Australia. After successfully taking the Main Awards and Exhibition to its new home at the Art Gallery of Western Australia in 2016, Tina stepped down to return to her own artistic practice.

Tina Wilson was made Patron of the Prize in 2018 in recognition of her passionate and tireless work to ensure there was a prize of ever-increasing excellence and prestige.

Dick Lester was made Lifetime Patron of the Prize in 2018, in recognition of his passion for the Arts, his encouragement of Tina Wilson during her tenure as Executive Director, and his advice and financial assistance that, from modest beginnings, enables the Prize to flourish.

KEY DATES

Call for Entries open (Adult & Youth Prizes)	Sat 20 April 2019
Call for Entries closes (Adult)	Fri 19 July (5pm AWST)
Call for Entries closes (Youth)	Fri 26 July (5pm AWST)
2019 Finalists announced (Adult & Youth)	Fri 16 August 2019 (5pm AWST)
2019 Exhibition Season at the Art Gallery of WA, Brookfield Place, Perth Cultural Centre, Yagan Square & various locations around Perth city	Sat 9 Nov – Mon 9 Dec 2019
Media Session – interviews with winners and their subjects (under embargo)	Fri 8 Nov 2019 (10am – 11.30am) – <i>yet to be confirmed</i>
2019 Winners (Adult) announced at the Art Gallery of WA	Fri 8 Nov 2019 (6.30pm – 9.30pm)

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