



MEDIA RELEASE

6 November 2019

ARTISTIC SUBJECTS FOR FREE LIVE PORTRAIT POP-UPS IN PERTH CBD

As part of the month-long celebration of portraiture by The Lester Prize – WA’s premier portrait prize, there will be free live portrait pop-ups in three CBD locations on Saturday 9 November, Saturday 16 November and Saturday 23 November, featuring subjects who are prominent musicians, actors and performers from WA’s Perth International Jazz Festival, Perth Symphony Orchestra and the Black Swan State Theatre Company of WA respectively.

The Lester Prize (formerly known as the Black Swan Prize for Portraiture), has undertaken several live portrait pop-up sessions in the Perth CBD using celebrity sitters since the prize’s inception in 2007. However this is the first time that The Lester Prize has worked collaboratively with these peak arts and performance organisations to celebrate portraiture.

The Lester Prize is calling on all artists and aspiring creatives to bring their own materials, easel and chair to one of the following three locations to take part in these free live portrait sessions:

- Saturday 9 November | 11am – 1pm | Urban Orchard within the Perth Cultural Centre. Celebrity Sitter *is Chris McNulty*, renowned jazz vocalist-composer and 2019 recipient of a Bundanon Trust Prelude Composer residency, from Perth International Jazz Festival;
- Saturday 16 November | 11am – 1pm | The Lawn in Yagan Square (Corner Wellington and William Streets). Celebrity Sitter is *Catherine Ashley*, renowned Harpist and composer from Perth Symphony Orchestra;
- Saturday 23 November | 12noon – 2pm | Forrest Chase Lounge Area (200 Murray Street). Celebrity Sitter is *Joe Paradise Lui*, Theatre and Performance Writer/ Director/Designer from the Black Swan State Theatre Company of WA.

Executive Director from The Lester Prize, Annie Silberstein said that “our aim is to use art as an expressive tool to explore, develop and practice creativity within our community - a passion we know that these three WA peak arts organisations share and actively promote. These sessions are also a fun way for artists to expand their creative network, further develop their art practice, be inspired and encouraged, and meet up with old (and new) friends.

A huge thank you to all involved for working together with us, as well as WA Portrait Artists who are also partnering with us for the live portrait sessions”.

The
Lester
Prize

The Lester Prize was renamed in 2019 in honour of the award's leading patron Richard Lester AM. More than 400 artists entered the competition from throughout Australia this year. The total prize pool available to emerging and professional artists is now over \$77,000, making it one of Australia's most prestigious art competitions.

Winners of the main prize will be announced on 8 November 2019 and the exhibition of the forty finalists works will open to the public in the Centenary Galleries at Art Gallery WA from 9 November to 9 December 2019.

The month-long Exhibition Season also includes the 2019 Youth Awards, portraiture workshops, artist floor talks and live portraiture demonstrations with The Lester Prize 2019 Finalists, and guided tours. For more information, visit www.lesterprize.com or join the conversation on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter @thelesterprize

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