



MEDIA RELEASE

23 June 2021

LESTER PRIZE ON DISPLAY IN REGIONAL WA

The Lester Prize – WA’s premier portrait prize is making its way to the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery (GRAG) next month and features works from the nation’s leading portrait artists.

The 2020 Lester Prize had more than 750 entries and 40 finalists’ works were previously exhibited at the Art Gallery of Western Australia demonstrating the quality and calibre of the exhibition.

The winning artists’ works on display at GRAG include:

- Serena Cowie (VIC) with her portrait titled The conversation featuring her friends, Maria Arvanitis and Alexandra Perrott. Winner of The Lester Prize for Portraiture \$50,000
- Sebastian Galloway (TAS) Warm air, cool light featuring Pirrin Francis. Winner of the Tony Fini Foundation Artist Prize \$10,000 (selected by artists’ peers).
- Stacey Evangelou (NSW) with her portrait of Joe Williams titled Warrior by spirit. Winner of the \$10,000 Minderoo Foundation Spirit Award (selected by Minderoo Foundation).
- Jess Le Clerc (QLD) with her work Shadow and bloom featuring her daughters, Eden Le Clerc, Jewel Le Clerc and Summer Le Clerc. Winner of the \$10,000 People’s Choice Prize donated by the Baldock Family.
- Kierah Falkner Babbel (VIC) with her portrait of Robyn Babbel and Karl Babbel titled Race car ya ya. Winner of the \$5,000 Ashurst Emerging Artist.
- Two Highly Commended Prizes were awarded to Daavid Anderson (WA) for his portrait of Andrew Nicholls titled The dying slave - study; and Joshua Cocking (WA) with his portrait of Franque Batty titled Making plants - a portrait of Franque. They each took home cash and prizes valued at \$2,300.

City of Greater Geraldton Mayor Shane Van Styn said it was an honour to host the 2020 Lester Prize.

“This is one of Australia’s most recognised art prizes with over \$100,000 in prize money and we are hosting it at GRAG for the next few weeks for all the Midwest to see,” he said. “Many of the finalists were from Western Australia, which may be inspiring and heartening for our creative community”.

Executive Director of The Lester Prize Annie Silberstein said “the 2020 Lester Prize reflects the year we found ourselves in 2020. Either directly facing or gently filtering the challenges and changes that impacted us all in 2020, we see in last year’s Lester Prize a community of artists who are turning inwards—to their loungerooms and loved ones, their rituals and routines—to create a timely, deeply personal and powerfully poignant image of our shared human condition. We are very pleased to share with you, the national spirit represented within this exhibition”.

The exhibition is collaboration between The Lester Prize and GRAG, and will be on display from Friday 2 July to Friday 6 August.

On Saturday 3 July, figurative artist Jill Ansell, and a former finalist in The Lester Prize will host a portrait art workshop where participants will learn about proportions of the face, how to check face measurements, tonal underpainting and colour mixing. Tickets are just \$30 and the event goes from 12.45pm to 3.30pm at GRAG. Visit www.artgallery.cgg.wa.gov.au for more details.

Submissions for the 2021 Lester Prize are closing on 5 July 2021.

ABOUT THE LESTER PRIZE

The Lester Prize is managed by The Lester Inc, a not-for-profit organisation founded in 2007 to provide an avenue for artists to exhibit works of portraiture within Western Australia. With an annual prize pool worth over \$95,000, it is now one of the nation's most recognised and prestigious art prizes.

Working with government, peak arts bodies and community groups, it plays a critical role in helping to diversify WA's local economy, grow cultural tourism, and activate spaces through creative placemaking. The Lester Prize is proud to provide locals and visitors with the opportunity to engage with the best of the artform each year in a format that puts the artists and community front-and-centre. The Lester Prize's exhibitions and public events program is targeted at diverse groups in the community and includes artist floor talks, workshops, live art demonstrations and pop-up community activations across the city.

The Prize advocates for Australian art and artists through a full month-long exhibition season, which includes:

- Main Exhibition of finalists artworks at AGWA's historic Centenary Galleries 16 Oct– 29 Nov 2021
- Big Screen Displays at various locations around Perth including Northbridge Piazza and Myer Forrest Chase runs Oct – Nov 2021
- Virtual Gallery, online events and creative resources
- Youth Exhibition of finalist artworks at Brookfield Place Tower 2 (123-125 St Georges Tce, Perth) runs from 18 Oct – 12 Nov 2021

KEY DATES

Submissions Close	5 July 2021
Finalists Announced	6 August 2021
2021 Exhibition Season at Art Gallery WA, Brookfield Place, Perth Cultural Centre, Yagan Square & various locations around Perth CBD	16 Oct– 29 Nov 2021
2021 Barton Family Foundation Installers Prize announced	8 October 2021
2021 Adult Winners (Main Awards) announced	15 Oct 2021
2021 Youth Winners (Youth Awards) announced	27 Oct 2021
2021 People's Choice Prize (Adult) Winner & winning voter announced	2 Dec 2021

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