

**Invitation
to support.**

The
Lester
Prize





Artwork | Desiree Crossing *The night commute* 2021. Oil on canvas, 98 x 78 cm.
Winner | 2021 Baldock Family People's Choice Award

Introducing The Lester Prize.

The Lester Prize is one of the country's most prestigious portraiture prizes. It provides the opportunity to engage with the best of the artform each year in a format that puts the artists and the community front-and-centre.

Portraiture is a highly accessible form of visual art that is relatable to everybody. Portraits are more than just a record of a face – they can reveal the power, virtues, and personality of the sitter.

By reflecting the human experience, portraits can lead us to consider our own lives; to question and to understand our own stories. These works spark dialogue and give us an opportunity, as individuals and as a community, to relate to one and other and form meaningful connections.

The Lester Prize captures what it means to be 'them', to be 'me' and to be 'us'.

“

In portraits that speak to the rich diversity of humanity that constitutes the special nature of this place on our planet, The Lester Prize provides artists with a platform to speak about their relationships with their fellow human beings.

This is what makes The Lester Prize such an important event in our lives each year.

—Prof Ted Snell AM CitWA



Theory of Change.

Final goal

Culturally richer,
more connected society

Intermediate outcomes

- Greater sense of connectedness, inspired by art
- A personal and intimate engagement with portraiture encouraging us to explore what it is to be human
- Accessible, high profile exhibition showcasing a diverse range of portraits with a prize to attract quality artists/art works
- Thriving artistic ecosystem
- Activities: Prize, Exhibitions, Fostering of the Local Community, Workshops, Support and Mentoring, Community Engagement

“

Every human face is unique; the ability to distil that uniqueness into a select moment is what makes portraiture so captivating. The inclusiveness of portraiture has the power to bring us together and helps us to see ourselves through the eyes of others; to be individually interpreted and universally understood.

— Chair of our Board Wayne Zekulich

Our goal: Creating a culturally rich society.

The Lester Prize's final goal is a culturally rich, more connected society. To help achieve this, we offer a platform for portrait artists of all levels to create and showcase their work, and a forum for celebrating young creatives. Our core activities include:

- A high-quality, high-profile annual Prize and exhibition that showcases artists at all stages of their career and puts the artists and community front-and-centre.
- Professional development and publicity for participating artists who are paid industry rates and provided with employment and networking opportunities throughout the exhibition and event season.
- Community engagement, education and youth programming including an annual Lester Prize Youth Awards, guided tours for schools and community groups, creative workshops, community art pop ups and work with residents in aged care homes and children in hospitals.
- Online programming which uses modern technology to enable accessibility to The Lester Prize for all – beyond the walls of the gallery and weeks of the exhibition season.

As one of Australia's most vibrant and prestigious portraiture prizes, we strive to ensure that all community members, regardless of their situation, are afforded the opportunity to engage meaningfully with visual art.



Artwork | Sidney Tapia *Through you* 2020. Oil on wooden board, 22 x 22 cm.
Winner | 2021 Richard Lester Prize for Portraiture & 2021 Barton Family Foundation
Installers' Prize

Our priority projects | The Lester Prize Youth Awards.

The Lester Prize Youth Awards engages young people with the visual arts and encourages them to tell their own stories through the medium of portraiture.

With your support we plan to 'reinvent' the Youth Awards. Building on our existing initiative, the new and improved Youth Awards will remain connected to The Lester Prize Main Awards while maintaining its own distinct and inspiring identity.

A suite of accompanying engagement programs will encourage young people to have fun with art. We aim to break down barriers to create meaningful and inclusive experiences for youth. Participants will connect with professional artists through workshops and mentorship sessions, receiving invaluable feedback and support from the experts.

The Lester Prize Youth Awards provides opportunity for young people to showcase their talent on a national level and be recognised for their skill and creativity. It helps youth to build confidence, share their stories and value the arts as an enriching pursuit.

“

The Lester Prize was the first national art prize I've entered and I couldn't believe it when I found out I was a Youth Prize Winner. Having my art displayed alongside other talented young artists made me so proud and encourages me to continue my journey as an artist.

— Gabrielle Badger, (2021 Youth Prize Winner, Years 7-8).



Artwork | Gabrielle Badger Ariana 2021. Water based acrylic on parchment, 76.3 x 57.2 cm.
Winner | 2021 Youth Prize (Years 7-8) 1st Prize

Our priority projects | Digital Engagement Project.

In a tech-dependent world, people are engaging with visual arts in new and exciting ways.

With your support, we will develop an innovative Digital Engagement Project that aims to inspire and foster connection in our community.

Using new digital content and engagement tools, the project will dramatically increase exposure to portraiture and the incredible work of our Finalists.

Podcasts, online workshops, digital exhibitions and more will make The Lester Prize accessible to audiences beyond Western Australia.

Portraiture has a unique resonance as it is relatable to everyone. We want to harness the power of technology to bring more people to the prize, regardless of geography.

The Lester Prize exhibits all our traits—the heroic, the despicable, the humble, the deplorable, the principled and the fallen. When you look upon these portraits of others, you can't help but see yourself reflected.



Artwork | Narelle Zeller *Brave new worker* 2020. Oil on aluminium composite panel, 131 × 83 cm.
Winner | 2021 Highly Commended



Why should you support us?

We work to ensure that every Australian can access visual arts through the beauty and joy of portraiture.

Support us to deliver a new and improved Youth Awards, engaging more young people with visual art and empowering them to tell their stories through portraiture.

Support us to put art in front of more people. Assist us to present activities, workshops and regional exhibitions that resonate with and connect people to life experiences.

Support us to grow our digital engagement and develop innovative ways to create connection, inclusion and inspiration through technology.

Support us to provide professional development opportunities for our artists. Help us to create more economic and creative opportunities for our artists in the community.

Support us to create personal and intimate engagements with portraiture encouraging all of us to explore what it is to be human.

We can't do it without you.

We welcome a conversation with you to discuss your involvement in helping to support and promote Australian portrait artists and the public engagement in the arts.

We look forward to meeting with you.

Annie Silberstein
ceo@lesterprize.com
0411 373 550

lesterprize.com