



MEDIA RELEASE

5 October 2023

YOUTH WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR WA'S PORTRAIT PRIZE

Seventeen-year-old high school student, Katura Halleday from All Saints Anglican School, QLD, has taken out the 1st Prize in the Years 11 – 12 category of The Lester Prize Youth Awards with her self portrait of titled *My sister's contemplation*.

Taking out the Highly Commended for the Years 11 – 12 category Willetton Senior High School Hannah Raphael for her portrait of a fellow teenage girl titled *Sanctuary*.

The 1st prize winners in the other aged categories were:

- Portia Connor for *Revisiting heritage*, from St Mary's Anglican Girls School, WA (Years 9 – 10).
- Years 7-8: Audrey Crogan, John Curtin College of the Arts, WA, for her work *The outside world*.

These winning students and schools were announced at an awards ceremony at the WA Museum Boola Bardip last night where the Youth works are currently on public display until Sunday, 16 July, 2023.

The judges, Nathan Beard, Carla Adams and Giorgia Mack commented on Katura's winning pastel drawing, commending Katura's use of a challenging medium and remarked on the great sense of control. "We loved the way she captured light in her portrait and the sense of hope and power conveyed through the positioning of her subject."

About the subject of her portrait, Katura said that 'my sister has a deep soul; she sees wonder, colour and texture in every moment, and I wanted to capture her love of colour and her identity as a member of the LGBT community in this portrait. She has a beauty that captures others the way the light captures her face in this portrait'.

More than 170 young and aspiring artists from across Australia entered this popular portrait prize this year, submitting portraits of an Australian, or Australians, that they respect or admire, or a self-portrait. A total prize pool of over \$5,000 was awarded to students in years 7 – 12 in three age group categories thanks to the generosity of the Valuing Children Initiative and Oxlades Art Supplies Perth. Winners and runners-up received cash and art supplies to help them further their art practice.

The Valuing Children Initiative has been a long-time supporter of the Youth Awards. VCI works to create a culture in which the needs and wellbeing of children and young people are automatically prioritised and where it is standard practice for kids to be actively involved in decision-making.

The Lester Prize

Valuing Children Development Executive Sarah Quinton said children and young people are experts at noticing the details of the life in the here and now, which makes them incredible artists.

“Children and young people see the world very differently to adults. They remind us of the importance of play, to be curious, to notice life’s small details, to be creative, spontaneous, to value relationships and to appreciate the natural world,” she said.

“Art is a wonderful way for children and young people to visualise their world and we support any avenue that raises the voices of children and young people through art.”

Schools were also eligible to win a workshop valued at \$500 with an award-winning professional artist. This year, this was awarded to All Saints College.

Presented by The Lester Prize in partnership with the Starlight Children’s Foundation, the Livewire category is open to young people in hospitals in Western Australia.

Two Livewire artists are selected to receive the JOY Portraiture Prize, generously sponsored by The Montauk Lighting Co. as well as an art supplies bundle from our prize partners at Oxlades Art Supplies. This year’s winner of the JOY Portraiture Prize Jasmine Rummer, for her watercolour titled 'Perspective!' The Highly Commended award goes to Sophie McDonald, for her acrylic painting 'Light on the horizon'.

Winners of the 2023 The Lester Prize Youth Awards:

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CATEGORY		
Yrs 11-12 1st Prize	Katura Halleday	School: All Saints Anglican School, QLD
Yrs 11-12 Highly Commended	Hannah Raphael	School: Willetton Senior High School, WA
Yrs 9-10 1st Prize	Portia Connor	School: St Mary's Anglican Girls School, WA
Yrs 9-10 Highly Commended	Maree Tang	School: Bob Hawke College, WA
Yrs 7-8 1st Prize	Audrey Crogan	School: John Curtin College of the Arts, WA
Yrs 7-8 Highly Commended	Jessica Chen	School: Applecross Senior High School, WA
SCHOOL CATEGORY		
1st Prize	All Saints College	

ENDS

For more information, visit: www.lesterprize.com

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 \$115,000, 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. The 2023 Main Awards Exhibition is held at The Art Gallery of Western Australia, running from 22 Sept– 26 Nov 2023.

The Town Hall Exhibition

The Lester Prize: Black Swan Years Retrospective

Now on show at the Perth Town Hall, this exhibition explores the history of The Lester Prize, and its emergence as one of Australia's most prestigious portraiture prizes.

Beginning in 2007, the Lester Prize aims to provide Western Australia with the opportunity to engage with the best of the portraiture artform each year, in a format that puts the artists and community front-and-centre.

This exhibition is presented in partnership with The City of Perth and is hosted at the Town Hall until 20 May. Open Monday - Friday, 10am - 4pm.