For Immediate Release – 15 October 2018

Grace Cossington Smith art award providing $20,000 in prizes for Making Connections

The Grace Cossington Smith Gallery and Abbotsleigh are pleased to announce the Grace Cossington Smith art award has returned as a biennial award and with additional prize categories. The award theme is inspired by the work of Abbotsleigh Old Girl and artist Grace Cossington Smith who made connections with her changing world through her drawing and painting. The finalists have responded to and elaborated upon the theme of Making Connections and their personal approaches provide us with a glimpse into their ideas and experiences.

Submissions were invited from Australian artists, aged over 18, for original work in any two-dimensional media in response to the theme Making Connections. Over 375 entries were received from around the country.

The awards:

- $15,000 awarded to the winner (acquisitive).
- $2,500 awarded to an early career artist.
- $2,500 awarded to a local artist from Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai area. Sponsored by Susie Stathakis and Di Jones Real Estate Wahroonga
- The winners share a three-week group exhibition at the GCS Gallery in November 2019

The award judges for the 2018 Grace Cossington Smith art award are Alison Clark, Team Leader Arts & Culture at North Sydney Council; and Dominik Mersch, Director of Dominik Mersch Gallery Rushcutters Bay. The judges selected 37 finalists and were impressed by the variety and diversity of the submissions revealing great rigour and quality from artists at differing stages in their career.

Abbotsleigh headmistress Mrs Megan Krimmer said ‘I am delighted that Abbotsleigh is expanding our connections with our community and a broad range of artists. The variety of medium and the different interpretations of the theme certainly provide a fascinating, thought-provoking and stimulating exhibition.’

The Grace Cossington Smith Gallery is FREE and open from Monday to Friday, 10 am – 5 pm and Saturday 9 am – 4 pm

Available for interview:
Mary Faith, Director of the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery, 61 2 9473 7878
2018 GRACE COSSINGTON SMITH ART AWARD FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

The Grace Cossington Smith Gallery today announces that 37 works by leading and emerging Australian artists are shortlisted for the three 2018 awards:

- The Grace Cossington Smith art award $15,000 acquisitive
- The Grace Cossington Smith early career artist award $2,500 non acquisitive
- The Grace Cossington Smith local artist award $2,500 non acquisitive - Sponsored by Susie Stathakis and Di Jones Real estate Wahroonga

Lyndall Beck  NSW  Donald Kenner  VIC
Yvonne Boag  NSW  Waratah Lahy  ACT
Julie Brooke  ACT  Melinda Le Guay  NSW
Penny Cain  NSW  Genevieve Loy  VIC
Tony Carlon  NSW  Deborah Marks  NSW
Tom Carment  NSW  Helen Mueller  NSW
Penny Coss  WA  Ro Murray  NSW
Julia Davis  NSW  Adam Norton  NSW
John Edwards  NSW  Catherine O’Donnell  NSW
David Fairbairn  NSW  Janet Parker-Smith  NSW
Kylie Fogarty  ACT  Wendy Sharpe  NSW
Louise Fowler-Smith  NSW  Sally Stokes  NSW
Hayley Megan French  NSW  Janet Tavener  NSW
Amanda Fuller  NSW  Jane Theau  NSW
Jacinta Giles  QLD  Annabelle Wass  NSW
Stephen Hall  NSW  Nicole Welch  NSW
Yvette Hamilton  NSW  JP Willis  NSW
Amaya Iturri  VIC  Lisa Woolfe  NSW
Tian Li Zu  NSW

The 2018 prize winners will be determined by guest judges Alison Clark, Team Leader Arts & Culture at North Sydney Council; and Dominik Mersch, Dominik Mersch Gallery Rushcutters Bay

The Prize will be announced at the official opening of the exhibition, open to the public, at the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery on Saturday 3 November 2018 from 2-4 pm. The exhibition will remain open until 24 November and will feature artworks from each of the 37 finalists.