

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.