

Brisbane Portrait Prize Media Release



Media release: Brisbane Portrait Prize: EMBARGOED: 4 pm 7 March, 2021

DETAILS OF 2021 BRISBANE PORTRAIT PRIZE ANNOUNCED.

Brisbane artist Keith Burt now has a studio where he can continue his growing art practice, away from the distractions of a busy household.

Burt won the 2020 Brisbane Portrait Prize Lord Mayors Prize. He says that not only was it a great financial boost, (\$50,000) but many more people know of his work and his art.

"It's been fantastic validation for me personally," he says. "It gives me the impetus to forge ahead more confidently. When you work alone all the time you can sometimes lack a bit of confidence. And it means I've been able to look at getting a studio outside the home", he says, "I'll be much more productive there, because there'll be less interruptions and distractions. I'll be less likely to do the laundry instead of work!"

Details of the 2021 Prize were released at the official Artists Launch at Howard Smith Wharves before an invited audience of artists, sitters, supporters, sponsors and corporates.

The Chief Judge for 2021 will be Karen Quinlan, Director of the National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. The Finalists Judges, those who choose the 70 finalists from the hundreds of entries, will be Avril Quail, Acting Head, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement Queensland Museum Network and Campbell Gray, Director, The University of Queensland Art Museum.

And The Star Entertainment Group, which owns and operates Treasury Brisbane, was announced as the new Presenting Partner of the Brisbane Portrait Prize.

Brisbane Portrait Prize Chair, Anna Reynolds, welcomed the great support from artists, supporters and art lovers of Brisbane.

"2020 was a tough year for many people, and the artworks in the finalists exhibition echoed the year that was. 2021 has to be better. Already I can see a desire for people to get out and about, and to see and experience the arts in real life."

"Artists provide a window into our world. Their interpretations help us make sense of the difficult times in which we live. This prize gives them the opportunity to tell the stories of our city and our times through the people. We need artists to start thinking about who will make a good subject, and how to approach it. There are so many inspiring people in our community, some well known, others not, who would make compelling subjects." And it's wonderful to have The Star Entertainment Group on board."

Treasury Brisbane COO Kelvin Dodt said he was pleased to support the awards to help pave a way for local artists to develop and showcase their skills while fostering a thriving arts and cultural sector across the city.

"As an active member of the Brisbane community for more than 25 years, we're delighted to support these awards for the first time, harnessing and celebrating our city's widespread diversity, talent, and local spirit," Mr Dodt said.

The Finalists Exhibition is held at the Brisbane Powerhouse in October. Key dates are:

- March 7 - Entries Open
- August 15 - Entries Close at 6pm

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- September 10 - Finalists Notified
- September 18 - Finalists Announced
- September 29 - Finalists Exhibition Opens
- October 6 - Winners Announced
- October 31 - Finalists Exhibition Closes

Prizes include:

Lord Mayor's Prize - \$50,000

Proudly presented by Brisbane City Council, all entries into the Brisbane Portrait Prize are eligible for the Lord Mayor's Prize.

Accenture Prize for Digital Portraiture - \$10,000

Supported by Accenture, any digitally created still work, including photography is eligible for the Digital Prize.

Courier-Mail People's Choice Award - \$7,500

Supported by the Courier-Mail, this award is chosen by popular vote from all the finalists.

Performing Arts and Music Award - \$7,500

Supported by the Lister Family Foundation, this award is open to portraits featuring sitters from the performing arts and music industries.

Sylvia Jones Prize for Women Artists - \$5,000

Supported by the Clem Jones Foundation, this award is open to all individuals who identify as women.

Packer's Prize - \$5,000

Supported by Howard Smith Wharves, this award is chosen by the team who hang the 2020 finalists exhibition.

Next Gen Prize - \$2,000

Supported by Gadens, this award is for the best portrait by an entrant 18 and under.

Support for Emerging Artists - \$1,000 Voucher

Supported by Oxlades, this will be given to two emerging artists and will be selected by the Board of the Brisbane Portrait Prize.

Key Contacts:

Lisa Renneisen 0418 802 466
Anna Reynolds 0401 997 099

Email: info@brisbaneportraitprize.org or more details at www.brisbaneportraitprize.org