

The logo for the Footscray Art Prize is a white-bordered square containing the text 'FOOTSCRAY ART PRIZE' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of a grey, textured surface, possibly concrete or stone, with some darker spots and a faint, dark smudge.

FOOTSCRAY ART PRIZE

MEDIA RELEASE

4/4/17

THE EYE ON THE PRIZE

Australia's best artists shortlisted for inaugural Footscray Art Prize

Just over 140 works from across Australia have been shortlisted for the inaugural Footscray Art Prize from more than 800 entries.

The Prize is a unique collaboration between Victoria University, Maribyrnong City Council, Footscray Community Arts Centre and the Rotary Club of Footscray with prize money totalling \$17,500.

In addition to the Main Prize, there are three other categories; the Street Art Prize sponsored by Cheaper Buy Miles, the Tertiary Art Prize sponsored by Footscray Plaza, and the Young Artists Prizes for entrants 13-17 years and 12 years and under sponsored by the Rotary Club of Footscray.

The judging panel comprises some of Australia's premier artists and gallery curators: Jason Smith, Director of Geelong Gallery; Beverly Knight, Executive Director Alcaston Gallery; internationally acclaimed Australian artist Reko Rennie; and Richard Ennis, Curator of the Incinerator Gallery in Moonee Ponds.

The panel conducted a blind shortlisting to select the works spanning photography, video, paintings, sculpture and street art. In addition, creative producer Simon Spain will judge the Young Artists Prizes.

Judge Jason Smith said the panel were moved and inspired by the range of work submitted.

"The sheer volume, diversity and exceptional merit of artists' submissions made the shortlisting process a challenging one, some of the works generated lively discussion! We were really struck by the artists' images of, and connections to, community and their locality.

"There is a strong representation of Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists, and as we did not have to consider any particular theme, each work had to speak for itself.

"We were moved and inspired by many artists whose work strongly reflects identity and social diversity; the relentless change of our urban environment; celebration but loss of familiar places in the name of progress and expansion; and the sheer intensity of human experience in a volatile world. As judges we looked for works that were rich in ideas and technically excellent in execution."

Entrants are as diverse as they are talented; including renowned Australian photographer Jeremy Blincoe, nationally accredited taxidermy artist Julia DeVille and Robert Fielding, an award-winning multidisciplinary artist working in Mimili, a remote Aboriginal community in South Australia.

New comer Mohsen Meysami's work draws on his early life experiences in the Iraq-Iran war through intricate bead work, and local artist Jody Haines invites viewers to move past their own personal prejudices and meet the 'other' face to face.

The winners will be announced on 25 May at the opening of the exhibition showcase of the shortlisted artists.

The exhibition will be held at three locations throughout the local area: Footscray Community Arts Centre 26 May – 24 June (Main Prize), VU at MetroWest 26 May – 17 June (Tertiary Prize and Young Artists), and various street locations in central Footscray (Street Art Prize).

The Footscray Art Prize has a total value of \$17,500 - categories include the Main Prize (\$10,000), the Street Art Prize (\$5,000), Tertiary Art Prize (\$1,500), and Young Artists Prizes for entrants 13-18 years (\$500) and 12 years and under (\$500).

Main Prize shortlist

VIC

Awel Aweng "*New Change presents Breaking News*" Video (Fitzroy)

Olga Bennett "*Page57_giacom_action4_clonestamp_..._dropshadow.jpg*" Silver gelatin photogram (Carlton)

Jeremy Blincoe "*Tropic of Chaos*" C-type photographic print (Clifton Hill)

Jeremy Blincoe "*Simba*" Photographic C-type print (Clifton Hill)

Fleur Brett "*Tribal #1 (The Fan Club)*" Woven crepe paper (Footscray, VIC)

Peter Burke "*Mishap*" Video (Kensington)

Matt Butterworth "*Untitled Contract*" Ink on paper (Reservoir)

Jessie Deane "*Stolt Tanker - View from Warmies*" Textile, needlepoint and thread on canvas (Yarraville)

Julia DeVille "*Genocide*" Taxidermy, jewellery, found object (Collingwood)

Megan Evans "*Stranger in the desert*" Digital print on rag (Werribee)

Rebecca Knaggs "*The Forgiveness Project*" Photograph (Yarraville)

Matto Lucas "*I Love You*" Multi-channel video (Footscray)

Georgie Mattingley “*The Distribution of Food*” Hand-painted silver gelatin print (Sunshine West)

Christine McFetridge “*Untitled, from the series 'We Live Quietly'*” Photograph (Melbourne)

Kent Morris “*Cultural Reflections - Up Above #1- Boonwurrung – Magpie*” Photograph (St Kilda)

Josh Muir “*Murrunghurk*” Digital print on aluminium (Napolean)

Hoang Nguyen “*The Partiki Tree*” Photographic print (Footscray)

Minh Phan “*Between Sky and Sea*” Installation of 20 oil on copper miniature paintings on table (Pascoe Vale South)

Natalie Ryan “*Untitled (black goat head)*” Ceramic, 22kt real gold leaf, prosthetic eyes (Fairfield)

Jessica Scott “*Olympic Doughnuts*” Video (Coburg)

Kip Scott “*Bradmill*” Digital photograph (Yarraville)

Meagan Streader “*One-Quarter U-Bend Column*” Fluorescent light sculpture, pine, electrical components (Brunswick)

Michael Vale – “*Is there life on Pluto?*” Oil on linen (Parkdale VIC)

Sharon West “*An Aboriginal Explorer presents his exotic British Isle finds to his Queen*” Mixed media diorama (Thornbury)

Paul White “*Set in the west (Phoenix Camaro's)*” Pencil on paper (Williamstown)

QLD

Aliah Murillo “*White Space*” Photograph (Nerang)

NSW

Uri Auerbach “*This Spider and This Moonlight Among The Trees*” Lamp fittings, glass tubes, ABS enclosures, found cabinet, computerised electronic components. (Bondi Beach)

Will Coles “*Forgotten*” Photograph (Kariiong)

Lada Dedic “*Self Portrait; Artists's Brain*” X-stitch on aida cloth (Wentworth Point)

WA

Joel Kennedy “*Embellishment of conflict: Jah Killah and Datu Shrieken*” Digital print (Halls Head)

SA

Robert Fielding “*Milkali Kutju (One Blood)*” Acrylic and ink on burnt and pierced paper (Alice Springs)

Mumu Mike Williams “*Postbag Painting*” Artwork in 3 parts: 2 x painted mailbags (acrylic on canvas mailbag), 1 kulata (traditionally made spear) Punu (wood), malu pulyku (kangaroo tendon), and kiti (resin from spinifex grass) (Alice Springs)

ACT

Anna Madeleine “*Short Loops*” Multi-channel installation of animation on 6 7" tablets, 2 custom display modules, 1 flipbook (Braddon)

Street Art Prize

Tom Gerrard “*Back Street*” (St Kilda)

Heesco Khosnaran Khurelbaatar “*Miss Citizen of the World*” (Yarraville)

Alex Sugar “*Endangered Beauty*” (Middle Park)

A list of the Young Artists and shortlisted Tertiary Prize artists is available upon request.

**Partner statements
[Attached as an appendix]**

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