

For Immediate Release
1 April 2022

Whitsundays Arts Festival Announces The 2022 Art Prize Exhibition And Calls For Artists

In its second year, the 2022 Whitsundays Arts Festival Art Prize Exhibition will be held at the Coral Sea Marina Resort in Airlie Beach and offers a total prize pool of \$11,200.

Entries are open to artists for the 2022 Whitsundays Art Prize Exhibition, a highlight of the Whitsundays Arts Festival.

Exhibition Coordinator Glenda Brown said: "We are seeking submissions from artists locally and from around Australia, as we showcase works which respond to the theme 'Memories.'"

"The finalists will be selected by a highly lauded judging panel, industry professionals who have had over 20 years of experience and are enthusiastic in developing innovative programs to grow artist platforms."

The 2022 judging panel is led by Tracy Cooper Lavery, Director, Gallery & Visual Arts at HOTA Home of the Arts Gold Coast. HOTA is the largest public gallery outside of a capital city and Tracy is an arts museum leader with a career spanning 25 years including Director of Rockhampton Art Gallery and Senior Curator at Bendigo Art Gallery. The evaluation panel also includes Mary Ann Santin, interdisciplinary artist and winner of myriad prestigious awards, and Kate O'Hara, Director of Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts, who has previously curated and managed galleries across Arnhem land and southeast Asia.

Tracy says of the opportunity:

"Art Prizes both big and small are a fantastic opportunity not only to introduce your work to a larger audience but perhaps win an award or sell an artwork in the process. I look forward to seeing the work of the Whitsundays Art Prize finalists in 2022."

The theme for the Festival and for the Art Prize Exhibition is 'Memories' and Whitsundays Arts Festival President Jess Begun says "in what has been another incredibly challenging year, we are asking artists to take a moment to reflect and to remember, reminiscing on what the theme 'Memories' means to them. I look forward to seeing how artists have chosen to connect with the theme."

"We are also delighted to hold the Exhibition in such a stunning location. The Coral Sea Marina Resort is one of the most picturesque in The Whitsundays, and to have the Exhibition overlooking the water truly makes art at the centre of Airlie Beach."

"With a prize pool totalling \$11,200 and sponsored awards from our local council and businesses around the region, the Art Prize Exhibition wouldn't be possible without the generous support of our sponsors, we thank them for continuing to support arts in our community."

Tourism Whitsundays Chief Executive Officer, Rick Hamilton said the announcement about the Whitsundays Art Prize Exhibition is a vibrant addition to a fun-filled community event.

"The 2022 Whitsundays Arts Festival is shaping up to be a great event filled with markets, workshops, performances, and live music. With a generous total prize pool, I look forward to seeing local emerging artists showcasing their work," Mr Hamilton said.

In 2021 the Art Prize Exhibition received over 100 artwork submissions, with 53 finalists selected, and received over 1,000 votes in the People's Choice Award. Townsville artist Lisa Ashcroft was the winner of the Regional Arts Prize of \$5,000, an art acquisitive prize by the Whitsunday Regional Council. The Whitsundays Arts Festival committee is delighted to announce that the Whitsunday Regional Council has once again committed to continue

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that support as part of their Arts Acquisition Program. The major prize-winning artwork will be acquired into the Whitsundays Regional Council Art Collection.

New this year is the inclusion of works from Australian artists working in any 2D or 3D medium (excluding photographs).

Entries open on 1 April 2022, and close on 1 August, with finalists announced on 22 August. The Exhibition is open to artists aged 16+. Finalist works will be on display at the Coral Sea Marina Resort from 23 September to 30 September, with winners to be announced at the opening night event.

For more information on this acquisitive Art Prize visit: whitsundaysartsfestival.org/art-prize-exhibition-2022.

Key Dates

Entries Open:	Friday 1 April 2022
Entries Close:	5pm, Monday 1 August 2022
Finalists Announced:	Monday 22 August 2022
Winners Announced:	Friday 23 September 2022
Exhibition Dates:	Friday 23 September - Friday 30 September 2022

Prizes and Supporters

- \$5,000 Regional Arts Prize – acquisitive by Whitsunday Regional Council - for 2D and 3D artworks
- \$1,000 2D Works on Paper Award
- \$1,000 2D Painting Award
- \$1,000 3D Sculpture Award
- \$1,000 Local Artist Award – Sponsored by Tassal Group
- \$1,000 Young Artist Award (16-25 years) – Sponsored by Wilmar Sugar
- \$1,000 People's Choice Award – Sponsored by Bendigo Bank
- R&K Kenyon Award (16-25 years) - \$200 framing voucher

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To view a Word Document of this release and supporting images, [click here](#).

To view The Whitsundays destination video, [click here](#).

About Tourism Whitsundays: *Tourism Whitsundays (TW) is the organisation responsible for destination marketing and visitor attraction for the Whitsunday region. It is the lead agency recognised by Tourism and Events Queensland and the Whitsunday Regional Council to lead the promotion of the region as a tourism destination. Tourism Whitsundays markets all aspects of the region including the Great Barrier Reef, Whitsunday Islands and Coast, accommodation, boating and sailing, fishing, touring, recreational activities, adventure, dining, shopping, weddings and honeymoons, conferencing and business events.*

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