

Media Release

25 October 2023

Winning artwork challenges viewers to peel back its many fascinating layers

Central Queensland artist Kate Oates has been named as Overall Winner of *The 48th Rio Tinto & QAL Martin Hanson Memorial Art Awards* held at Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum (GRAGM) on Saturday 21 October.

Kate, who is a member of the Emu Park Art Gallery, won the coveted *Rio Tinto & QAL Martin Hanson Memorial Art Award* for her artwork *IF, I climb the hill...*, winning \$15,000 prize money.

Section winners included *Modern Mother* by Michelle Taranto (Easel Paintings), *THEN VI* by Cleo Wilkinson (Works on Paper), *M T Nesters Thing of the Past?* by Jude Kennedy (Three Dimensional & Fibre Works) and *Outbound* by Clifton Schulke (Digital Works).

Judge of *The 48th Rio Tinto & QAL Martin Hanson Memorial Art Awards* Sarah Johnson, Senior Curator at Qantas Founders Museum Longreach, said Kate's work piqued her interest from the moment she saw it.

"This a sophisticated and beautifully executed painting that is a statement by the artist on the justice system from a First Nation perspective," Ms Johnson said.

"The painting is technically excellent and depicts a physical and metaphorical hill to climb, both timely and salient.

"This is an outstanding piece of art that deserves to be fully recognised and awarded.

"Reading the Artist Statement from Kate revealed the many layers of this work."

Kate is a Ngiyampaa Wailwan woman, and in her Artist Statement she says *IF, I climb the hill...* "represents the First Nations gap in the justice ecosystem."

"The heaviness of the load weighs on everyone who becomes part of the journey," the Artist Statement reads.

"The victim and their families, victim support staff, prosecutors, the defendant and their criminal lawyer, witnesses and the Judge and so many others. Moving forward undoing the past."

This year, 272 entries were received and displayed, including:

- 145 Section 1 entries, Easel Works
- 63 Section 2 entries, Works on Paper
- 40 Section 3 entries, Three-Dimensional & Fibre Works
- 24 Section 4 entries, Digital Works.

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Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett was pleased to see an increase in local entries for this year's Awards.

"We are very proud of our local artists in the Gladstone Region with 152 local artists on display this year and it was fantastic to see some of them win as well," Councillor Burnett said.

"I was also impressed by the 23 people who entered the Young Emerging Artist category this year, which is testament to the enthusiasm of the next generation of artists."

The QAL People's Choice Awards Voting is now open and closes at 2pm on Saturday, 20 January 2024.

Voting is simple:

- Visit GRAGM and enjoy the exhibition before 2pm Saturday, 20 January 2024
- Scan the QR Code
- Enter your details
- Choose your favourite in each section.

The QAL People's Choice Awards Winners win \$500 each. Visit gragm.qld.gov.au for more details.

WINNERS LIST – The 48th Rio Tinto & QAL Martin Hanson Memorial Art Awards

OVERALL

Overall Winner – Martin Hanson Memorial Art Award, sponsored by Rio Tinto and Queensland Alumina Limited

\$15,000

Kate Oates *IF, I climb the hill...*

The Pamela Whitlock Memorial Acquisitive Award, sponsored by Gladstone Ports Corporation

\$5000

Johanna De Maine and Tatsuya Tsutsui *Nuinoike-fragmented memories*

The Pieter Groen-int-woud Memorial Young Emerging Artist Award, sponsored by Multitrade Building Hire

\$1,500

Kokoda Cadzow-Smith *Somniator*

The Local Murri Artist Award, sponsored by Elizabeth & Leo Zussino

\$2000

Gordon Lister *A Love Story*

The Local Artist Award, sponsored by QER – Queensland Energy Resources Pty Ltd

\$2000

Craig Walters *Friends*

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Media Release

The Installers Choice Award, sponsored by Councillor Natalia Muszkat

\$500

Liz Farrell *Pipe Dreams*

SECTION 1: EASEL PAINTINGS

First Prize, sponsored by Gladstone Area Water Board

\$2,000

Michelle Taranto *Modern Mother*

Second Prize, sponsored by 4CC

\$1,000

Sam Pennisi *Gladys Galah*

Third Prize, sponsored by Gladstone Cinemas

\$500

Elizabeth Marsh *Miner*

SECTION 2: WORKS ON PAPER

First Prize, sponsored by ConocoPhillips

\$2,000

Cleo Wilkinson *THEN VI*

Second Prize, sponsored by Central Apartment Group

\$1,000

Carla Adams *"Johnny"*

Third Prize, sponsored by Elevate Media

\$500

Niloufar Lovegrove *Peacemaker Guardian*

SECTION 3: THREE DIMENSIONAL AND FIBRE WORKS

First Prize, sponsored by Gladstone Area Water board

\$2,000

Jude Kennedy *M T Nesters Thing of the Past?*

Second Prize, sponsored by Ana's Spa Massage and Beauty Therapy

\$1,000

Djuran Johnson *Kubi Guvi Thoo*

Third Prize, sponsored by Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Ltd (GAPDL)

\$500

Christine Holden *Food For Thought*

MORE

SECTION 4: DIGITAL WORKS

First Prize, sponsored by Gladstone Engineering Alliance (GEA)

\$2,000

Clifton Schulke *Outbound*

Second Prize, sponsored by CQUniversity

\$1,000

Tom Holden *Composition 44*

Third Prize, sponsored by Newprint HRG

\$500

Emma Thorp *On Any Given Day*

The 48th Rio Tinto & QAL Martin Hanson Memorial Art Awards Exhibition will be on display until Saturday, 27 January 2024.

ENDS