

Media Release

21 October 2024

Local artist wins prestigious Rio Tinto Yarwun & QAL Martin Hanson Memorial Art Awards

Local First Nations artist Gordon Lister has been named as Overall Winner of *The 49th Rio Tinto Yarwun & QAL Martin Hanson Memorial Art Awards* held at Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum (GRAGM) on Saturday 19 October.

Gordon Lister took home the coveted *Rio Tinto Yarwun & QAL Martin Hanson Memorial Art Award* for his artwork, *Acknowledgement of Country*, winning \$15,000 in prize money.

Section winners included *East Point, Facing Island* by Fiona Marxsen (Easel Works), *Mackerel* by Mykenzie O'Brien (Works on Paper), *Plastic Palace* by Christine Holden (Three Dimensions and Fibre Works) and *Anamorphism* by Kate Kurucz (Digital Works).

Kyle Weise, Acting Curator at The University of Queensland Art Museum and judge of *The 49th Rio Tinto Yarwun & QAL Martin Hanson Memorial Art Awards* said the task to decide Award winners was not an easy one.

"The more time I spent with the works the harder it got," Mr Weise said.

"There is an amazing variety of work here and it was incredible to hand out 17 prizes, which is remarkable and shows great support from the community."

Mr Weise said Gordon Lister's artwork stood out among a very accomplished field of entries.

"It is rendered with such precision and detail; it just draws you in and you slowly explore its stories the more time you spend with it," he said.

"For me it was a clear winner."

Gordon Lister's Artist Statement reads: "Gordon, a muddy waters Mari (man), is now living on Saltwater Country. This painting acknowledges the Sovereign Peoples from the Gladstone Region and their connection to Country, where he now works and resides."

This year, 236 entries were received and displayed, including:

- 130 Section 1 entries, Easel Works
- 52 Section 2 entries, Works on Paper
- 36 Section 3 entries, Three Dimensions & Fibre Works
- 18 Section 4 entries, Digital Works.

Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett said the local talent on display at the Art Awards was inspiring.

MORE

“Every year I find myself blown away by the impressive display of artistic ability that Gladstone Region locals bring to the awards,” Councillor Burnett said.

“The Art Awards are a highlight on our community’s cultural calendar and one of the most eagerly anticipated Art Awards in Regional Queensland.

“I want to thank everybody who submitted their artwork to the Art Awards for their invaluable contribution to art, culture and the legacy of Martin Hanson.”

Voting is now open for the QAL People’s Choice Awards and closes at 2pm on Saturday, 18 January 2025.

Voting is simple:

- Visit GRAGM and enjoy the exhibition before 2pm Saturday, 18 January 2025
- 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. *The 49th Rio Tinto Yarun & QAL Martin Hanson Memorial Art Awards* Exhibition will be on display until Saturday, 25 January 2025.

WINNERS LIST – The 49th Rio Tinto Yarwun & QAL Martin Hanson Memorial Art Awards

OVERALL

Overall Winner – The 49th Rio Tinto Yarwun & QAL Martin Hanson Memorial Art Award

\$15,000

Gordon Lister, *Acknowledgement of Country*

The Pamela Whitlock Memorial Acquisitive Award

\$5000

Geoffrey Head, *Bottle Top Tinsel*

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

\$1,500

Lani Burville, *The Gravy Boat*

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

\$1500

Caelum Grant Iman, *BARYONYX (DINOSAUR DUEL)*

The Local Artist Award, sponsored Gladstone Area Water Board

\$1500

Ping Carlyon, *Muscles & Brushstrokes #6*

The Installers Choice Award, sponsored by Councillor Natalia Muszkat

\$500

Jessica Stapleton, *The Architects*

Media Release

SECTION 1: EASEL WORKS

First Prize, sponsored by QER – Queensland Energy Resources

\$2,000

Fiona Marxsen, *East Point, Facing Island*

Second Prize, sponsored by Gail Sellers

\$1,000

Catherine Boreham, *“A King Emerges”*

Third Prize, sponsored by Gladstone Area Water Board

\$500

Norman Fraser, *INDUSTRY: DILIGENCE, HARD WORK*

SECTION 2: WORKS ON PAPER

First Prize, sponsored by ConocoPhillips

\$2,000

Mykenzie O’Brien, *Mackerel*

Second Prize, sponsored by Central Apartment Group

\$1,000

Susan Head, *Annual General Meeting*

Third Prize, sponsored by 4CC

\$500

Alix O’Neil, *Morning Salutations*

SECTION 3: THREE DIMENSIONS AND FIBRE WORKS

First Prize, sponsored by Gladstone Ports Corporation

\$2,000

Christine Holden, *Plastic Palace*

Second Prize, sponsored by Gladstone Area Water Board

\$1,000

Bina Van Haefen, *LIMINAL*

Third Prize, sponsored by Ray White Gladstone

\$500

Daniel O’Hanlon, *Yurumpi Honey Ant by Gunga*

SECTION 4: DIGITAL WORKS

First Prize, sponsored by Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre

\$2,000

Kate Kurucz, *Anamorphism*

Second Prize, sponsored by CQUniversity

\$1,000

Keri Lockwood, *Little Falls*

Third Prize, sponsored by 4CC

\$500

Thomas C. Chung, *"As Far As I Could See..."*

ENDS