

Thursday 16 June 2016

‘PLEDGE FOR PARITY’ WOMEN’S ART PRIZE WINNERS

An enthusiastic crowd of over 150 art lovers gathered last night for the official launch of the City of Ryde Winter Arts Festival and the announcement of the winners of the 2016 City of Ryde Women’s Art Prize (WAP), at See Street Gallery, Meadowbank.

Now in its sixth year WAP is inspired by International Women’s Day and has the primary aim to promote creativity and talent for the great empowerment of women through art. WAP is now the biggest arts prize of its type in the nation, attracting over 300 entries from local and interstate artists, and with a total prize pool of \$3,250.

2016 WOMEN’S ART PRIZE WINNERS

Open Category

First Place Winner	Ingrid Stiertzel <i>Memoirs in the Mist</i>
Highly Commended	Linda Wilken <i>Show Us Your Tits</i>
Highly Commended	Suzanne Davey <i>Exhale</i>
Commended	Clare Unger <i>Imprint 1</i>
Commended	Soo Hee Choi <i>Sonya</i>

Community Category

First Place Winner	Rose Basile <i>Bin Night</i>
Highly Commended	Lyndall Graham <i>Ghost Homes for the Living Homeless</i>
Highly Commended	Helen Oprey <i>Waiting</i>
Commended	Lauren van Dort <i>It’s No Use Going Back</i>
Commended	Virginia Bucknell <i>Hope – Self Portrait</i>

Youth Category

First Place Winner	Erin O’Neill <i>Window Dressing</i>
Highly Commended	Scarlett Steven <i>Laissez-hair</i>
Highly Commended	Carolyn Love <i>Inhabitation</i>

Local Artist Award Recipient

Janet Parker-Smith *Ordinary, Extraordinary*

City of Ryde Mayor Clr Jerome Laxale said: “This year’s exhibition clearly resonated with the community resulting in a very strong response from artists as diverse in age, ability and culture as the mediums they have chosen.

“Ryde Council has a progressive agenda of supporting women – by promoting gender equity both within the organisation and in the larger community with our policies and services.

“We are also working hard to promote the arts and encourage arts practitioners by giving them access to more opportunities and places to display their works.

“As the opening event of Ryde’s ambitious three-month long Winter Arts Festival, the Women’s Art Prize brings together these objectives in the best possible way,” he said.

Exhibition Curator Cassandra Hard Lawrie said: “This exhibition is a fantastic way to showcase the talent of the local community whilst bringing attention to important women’s issues to the wider community.

“The Council’s ongoing commitment to presenting opportunities for local artists to exhibit their works, from both professional, student and youth backgrounds should be commended.”

The International Women's Day Art competition celebrates the achievements of women and artists who live, work, study or play in the City of Ryde. The works will be on exhibition for two weeks (15 June – 2 July) at the See Street Gallery in Meadowbank.

International Women’s Day Art Prize and Exhibition ‘Pledge for Parity’

When: Exhibition runs Wednesday 15 June - Saturday 2 July. Open Tuesday - Saturday 11.00am – 4.00pm (closed Sunday and Monday).

Where: See Street Gallery, Sydney Gallery School, Meadowbank Campus of The Northern Sydney Institute – part of TAFE NSW.

Cost: Free entry

More information: www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/wap

The International Women’s Day Art Prize and Exhibition is an initiative of the City of Ryde Status of Women Advisory Committee in association with Northern Sydney Institute TAFE.

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