

2015 Winner Announced

2 October 2015

Black Swan Portraiture Prize

Sydney painter Marcus Callum has taken out this years \$50,000 Lester Group prize at the Black Swan Prize for Portraiture. The winning portrait is a painting of WA artist Abdul Abdullah who has been a previous Black Swan Finalist.

Chairman of the Lester Group, Dick Lester announced the winner last night to a full house at the Linton and Kay gallery in Perth and paid homage to the talent and high calibre of work from all the finalists.

“The exhibition this year displays a really strong diversity of approaches but also a diversity of sizes,” the judges said.

Now in it's ninth year, the Black Swan Prize for Portraiture attracts artists from all over Australia with a growing number of entrants every year. With the talent improving each year, the judges had a difficult task in selecting a winner, but settled on the “Wrecking ball” by Marcus Callum.

“The painting is a compelling example of the possibilities of contemporary portraiture. While the sitter is outwardly recognisable, at the same time the portrait gives a very strong sense of a resourceful inner life and the sense of flux that characterizes selfhood. The artwork has been filtered and processed in a particularly inventive way. A very deliberate sense of perfected craft.”

Other prizes were awarded to Jodi Daley, who took out the \$7,500 People's Choice Prize, Jandamarra Cadd who won the \$1,000 St John of God Health Care Online Voting Prize and Jerome Davenport's popular portrait of Nic Naitanui won the \$1,000 H.U. Kendall & Co At gift voucher.

Black Swan judges also highly commended two artists on their work: Joshua Cocking's self portrait titled 'Dinner Lament' and Olivia Samec who created a portrait of her 87yo father titled 'Ernest Samec'.



2015 Black Swan for Portraiture Prize Winner

Artist: Marcus Callum
Subject: Abdul Abdullah
Title: Wrecking ball

“The smaller works are as equally successful as the larger works, holding their own on the wall. The prize shows the terrific vitality of contemporary portraiture in Australia. As judges we have had some very energized discussions about many of the portraits in the exhibition. Choosing the winner was a serious process and one that we put a lot of thought into.”

To view works of these talented artists, or to find out how you can support such a prestigious West Australian award, visit www.blackswanprize.com.au