Media contact: Penny Whitehead | T: 0404846202| E: penny@geelonggallery.org.au

Celebrating success

Monday 19 November 2018

Geelong Gallery's hosting of the *Archibald Prize 2018* has seen extraordinary visitation to the cultural institution over the past 8 weeks. **76,651 people** have visited the Gallery since the exhibition opened on 22 September compared to 58,000 in 2017.

Director & CEO Jason Smith says "The earlier timing of the *Archibald Prize 2018* to include the September school holidays, the AFL Grand Final holiday and White Night, in addition to an extra two weeks of display has seen the crowds swell to these exceptional numbers. We were also pleased to see 2,151 students (pre-school to tertiary) visit the exhibition as part of our focused schools program, and increased engagement with the aged care and disability sector through our Who Are You program supported by Gandel Philanthropy."

City of Greater Geelong Mayor Bruce Harwood comments "As a major partner of this event, the City is delighted with the response to this year's Prize. The Archibald Prize has again proven to be a huge success, with many people who wouldn't normally visit the Gallery coming along. Congratulations to the Gallery and all staff for providing a wonderful experience. Given the increased attendances in 2018, we look forward to seeing the economic impact data in the coming weeks."

Geelong Gallery will announce the winner of the **2018 ANZ People's Choice Award** on Wednesday 21 November.

The *Archibald Prize 2018* now travels to Tamworth Regional Gallery as part of its regional New South Wales tour. Find out more about each of this year's Archibald finalists here www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/prizes/archibald/2018.

Geelong Gallery continues to exhibit *Cuttings—Elizabeth Gower* until 25 November and will return the permanent collection to display over the coming weeks.

There is no there—Gabriella Mangano and Silvana Mangano opens on 8 December.

-Ends-

Archibald Prize 2018
Photographer: Hails & Shine

Archibald Prize 2018
The Archibald Prize 2018 is an Art Gallery of New South Wales touring exhibition'

ART GALLERY NSW presenting partner ANZ

Geelong presenting partners:

Events Geelong

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG