

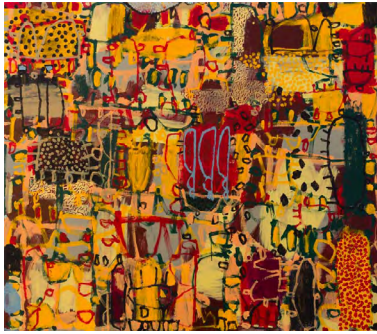


# Media Release

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## Naomi Hobson is awarded the \$30,000 2022 Geelong Contemporary Art Prize

Embargoed until Friday 15 July at 7pm



**Naomi Hobson**  
First Nations Australian, born 1978; lives and works in Coen, Queensland  
Language group: Kaantju/Umpila

*Sand dunes on the coast* 2022  
synthetic polymer paint on Belgian linen  
Geelong Contemporary Art Prize (winner), 2022  
Reproduced courtesy of the artist, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, and Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne

Far North Queensland-based artist **Naomi Hobson** has been awarded the 2022 Geelong Contemporary Art Prize for her painting *Sand dunes on the coast* 2022.

The selection panel included **Lisa Byrne**, Director, McClelland Sculpture Park+Gallery, **Kyla McFarlane**, Senior Academic Programs Curator, Museums & Collections, The University of Melbourne, and **Lisa Sullivan**, Senior Curator, Geelong Gallery, who were drawn to the energy and structural complexity of Hobson's interpretation of the natural world.

*Sand dunes on the coast* is representative of the artist's distinctive style: her vibrant multi-layered compositions emerge from and convey a deep ancestral connection to the traditional lands of the Kaantju/Umpila people, on which she was born and continues to live and work (in the coastal town of Coen).

The complexity of the composition reflects the rich diversity of this landscape—from coast to wetlands to mountain ranges—and the interconnectedness of the plants, animals and people that live harmoniously within it amid changing weather patterns. Hobson's joyful and expressive work, rendered in vivid colours and a diverse array of mark-making, powerfully depicts her connection to Country in her distinctive visual language.

Of the award-winning painting *Sand dunes on the coast* Hobson has stated:

*"This work is inspired by feelings towards my natural world. It's the light of the coastal morning sun shimmering across the ocean and lagoons. It's the soft*

*angular contours of the western slopes slowly descending to a sea of wetlands. The drama of folding and collapsing mountain ranges with the weather waiting to happen one way or the other. All the while my family and my ancestors received and gave. Mountains, plants, animals, and people.*

*We are all one.*

*We are Grounded in Nature."*

The judges also wish to acknowledge the contemporary relevance and excellent quality of the works of the additional 27 finalists who were selected from an Australia-wide field of over 400 entries, and who are among the country's finest established and emerging artists.

The announcement of the Prize will be made by Geelong Gallery on **Friday 15 July at 6.30pm**. Follow @GeelongGallery on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#) for more information.

Geelong Gallery wishes to thank the Dimmick Charitable Trust for generously sponsoring this signature event. The Prize is acquisitive and assists the ongoing growth of the Gallery's collection, while also promoting Australian painting and contemporary artists. This is the first work by Naomi Hobson to enter the collection of Geelong Gallery.

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2022 Geelong Contemporary Art Prize

Exhibition Partner

Dimmick Charitable Trust



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### About the artist

Naomi Hobson (born 1978) is a Southern Kaantju/Umpila woman who lives in Coen, a small town in the centre of Cape York Peninsula in Far North Queensland. A multidisciplinary artist, she works across the mediums of painting, ceramics and photography.

Hobson has exhibited widely within Australia and internationally since 2008, including the National Gallery of Victoria, Cairns Art Gallery, National Gallery of Australia, Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, Art Gallery of South Australia, and State Library of Queensland. She has been a finalist in several prominent Australian prize exhibitions including the Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (2016, 2015, 2014), Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (2018, 2016), The Alice Prize (2020, 2016), Guirguis New Art Prize (2019), Geelong Contemporary Art Prize (2016), Sunshine Coast Art Prize (2019, 2017), and Len Fox Painting Prize (2016). She was the winner of the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair Photography Award in 2018 and the 39th Alice Prize in 2016.

Her work has been acquired by significant public institutions including the National Gallery of Australia, National Gallery of Victoria, Art Gallery of South Australia, Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Shepparton Art Museum, Bendigo Art Gallery, and Cairns Art Gallery, as well as private collections in Australia and internationally.

Naomi Hobson is represented by Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, and Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne.

