

Media contact: Miranda Brown | T: 03 9419 0931 | E: miranda@mbpublicity.com.au

Geelong Gallery hosts Archibald Prize

28 October to 10 December 2017

Entry fees apply

Open daily 10am to 5pm and Friday evenings from 6pm to 9pm

Geelong Gallery is delighted to be the exclusive Victorian venue for the *2017 Archibald Prize*. High profile, eagerly anticipated and often controversial, the **Art Gallery of New South Wales' Archibald Prize** is Australia's favourite art award, and one of its most prestigious. Awarded to the best portrait painting, it's a who's who of Australian culture, with subjects often including politicians, celebrities, sporting heroes, authors and artists.

Jason Smith, Director, Geelong Gallery said: "We are excited to present the *Archibald Prize* in Geelong for the first time. There is much anticipation in the region and we look forward to presenting our community with extended opportunities to engage with artists, sitters and more generally with the genre of portraiture. We are also delighted to present a comprehensive access and learning program, **Who Are You**, which we are delivering in conjunction with our partner, **Gandel Philanthropy**. As part of this program, the **Who's who portrait prize** will incorporate works from over 1,500 children in venues throughout Geelong."

Since its inception in 1921, the *Archibald Prize* has been engaging art enthusiasts, and challenging the way we see ourselves and our society. Over the years, the prize has been awarded to many of Australia's most prominent artists.

43 portraits are exhibited in this years' exhibition including *2017 Archibald Prize* winner **Mitch Cairns** for his portrait of partner and artist Agatha Gothe-Snape and the *Packing Room Prize* winner **Peter Smeeth** for his portrait of Lisa Wilkinson AM.

There is a strong local connection between Geelong and the *Archibald Prize*. Christened John Feltham, JF Archibald was born in Geelong West on 14 January 1856 and lived in the region beginning his journalism career in Warnambool when he was 15 years old. Furthermore, a number of finalists in the *2017 Archibald Prize* have connections to the region. Artist **Kate Beynon** was the winner of the *2016 Geelong contemporary art prize*, **Sophia Hewson** was schooled in Geelong while **William H Luke** and sitter **Remy van de Wiel** have decades of involvement in the Geelong region spending their summers on the Surf Coast. There are also portraits by artists, and of artists, who are represented in the Geelong Gallery collection including **Jon Campbell**, **John Olsen AO, OBE** (by **Nicholas Harding**), **Peter Powditch** (by **Noel Thurgate**) and *Archibald Prize 1973* winner and local resident **Janet Dawson** (by **Ashley Frost**).



Winner—Archibald Prize 2017

Mitch Cairns
Agatha Gothe-Snape
oil on linen
140.5 x 125 cm
© the artist
Photo: Mim Stirling, AGNSW



Winner—Packing Room prize 2017

Peter Smeeth
Lisa Wilkinson AM
oil on linen
100 x 150 cm
© the artist
Photo: Felicity Jenkins, AGNSW

About the Archibald Prize

The *Archibald Prize* was established in 1921 from a bequest made by JF Archibald to the Art Gallery of New South Wales, which now awards \$100,000 prize money for the winning artist. **Jules Francois Archibald**, the founding editor of *The Bulletin* magazine, was a passionate supporter of a distinctly Australian style of nationalism, journalism and the arts. In establishing the prize his aim was to foster portraiture as well as support artists and perpetuate the memory of great Australians.

According to Archibald's will – held in the Art Gallery of New South Wales archive – the *Archibald Prize* is to be awarded annually to the best portrait 'preferentially of some man or woman distinguished in art, letters, science or politics, painted by any artist resident in Australasia'.

An open competition, the *Archibald Prize* is judged by the trustees of the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Entries to the *Archibald Prize* must be painted in the past year from at least one live sitting.

Entries in the *Archibald Prize* are eligible to be considered for the *Packing Room Prize* valued at \$1,500 in 2017 and the **ANZ People's Choice award** valued at \$3,500 (awarded at the end of the exhibition).

The *Packing Room Prize* was first awarded in 1991 and is chosen by the gallery staff who receive, unpack and hang the entries. 51 per cent of the vote towards this prize is allocated to the head of the packing room, Steve Peters (who has recently retired, and is the subject of **Lucy Culliton's** entry in 2017).

The ANZ People's Choice award was first awarded in 1988 and is voted for by members of the public visiting the *Archibald Prize* exhibition at each venue. Geelong Gallery's ANZ People's Choice award will be announced in the final week of the exhibition.

Geelong Gallery proudly hosts the *Archibald Prize* again in 2018.

Public programs

Lectures@theDome—Each Saturday from 11am, hear an engaging series of conversations with *Archibald Prize 2017* finalists and their sitters and invited guests. Hosted on the 5th floor of the Geelong Library & Heritage Centre, enjoy topics including 'Music and arts', 'Artists by artists' and 'Reflection of self'. Free with entry to the *Archibald Prize 2017*.

Geelong contemporary: Talking art—Geelong Contemporary hosts an evening discussion with a *Archibald Prize 2017* finalist and their subject. An after-hours preview of the exhibition with canapés and drinks provided. Entry fees apply.

Little Creatures after dark—Each Friday evening during the *Archibald Prize 2017* Geelong Gallery opens for exclusive evening viewings from 6pm to 9pm. Geelong Gallery's Pop Up Café and Bar will be open until 8:30pm.

Who's who portrait prize—This student prize marks Jules Francois Archibald's connection to Geelong and aims to encourage and inspire young artists to celebrate local or regional identities, their personal histories and achievements through portraiture. Selected entries will be exhibited across Geelong including Geelong Gallery, Westfield Shopping Centre and more from 21 October to 10 December.

Pop Up Café and Bar—Open every day during the *Archibald Prize 2017*, Geelong Gallery's Pop Up Café and Bar will be a great spot to stop for coffee & cake, lunch or a drink. Proudly supported by **Steampocket Catering, Laura Park Estate** and **Little Creatures Brewery**.

The Studio—Explore portraiture and play in the Geelong Gallery Studio designed for children and the young at heart to engage with portraiture in the Geelong Gallery collection.

Details of all public programs and links for bookings are listed on our website geelonggallery.org.au

Entry fees—

Adult \$16.00 | Concession \$12.00 | Child \$7.00 | Members \$10.00 | Group (over 10) \$14.00

Archibald Prize 2017

Geelong Gallery is proudly supported by a range of partners for the Archibald Prize 2017, a touring exhibition from the Art Gallery of New South Wales.



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