

MEDIA RELEASE

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WHYALLA ART PRIZE 2017: OPEN FOR ENTRIES

The prestigious Whyalla Art Prize 2017 will open for entries from Australian artists on 1st February.

Entries for biennial award with a major monetary prize of \$25,000, once again generously contributed by the Corporation of the City of Whyalla, will be open until 29th May at 5:00pm.

“An Exhibition of shortlisted wall-based work in any medium other than photography will be held at the Middleback Arts Centre Foyer in Whyalla throughout October and November with an official opening and announcement of the winner at the beginning of October. Following this exhibition a small collection of this work will be selected to be exhibited at the Adelaide Airport for the first time, which will attract a sizeable national and international audience,” said Country Arts SA Chief Executive Officer, Steve Saffell.

“Following the success of our digital initiative in 2015, the Prize once again encourages moving image artists to enter works.”

Originally designed to promote emerging artists in the area by the Whyalla Arts Council in 1972, the Prize has since grown into a significant national award showcasing contemporary Australian art. The community of Whyalla has acquired a notable collection of artworks in iconic styles reflecting the changing face of the country over this time.

“Bringing contemporary visual arts practice to Whyalla in a single exhibition, the Whyalla Art Prize continues to discover new talent and invigorates artistic passions, while supporting artists both locally and Australia-wide,” said City of Whyalla Mayor Lyn Brueur.

Winner of the last award in 2015, Tasmanian artist Paul Snell, said the prize afforded him more opportunities and recognition at a national level.

“As winner of the 2015 Whyalla Art Prize I not only gained national exposure but my work was recognised and valued by my peers. For me this has much significance and in some respects holds more value than the monetary component,” said Snell.

“The prize money did provide me with numerous opportunities and growth within my practice however, such as allowing me to construct a 15-metre piece, my largest work to date, and enabling me to attend *Art Basel* Hong Kong and the *Paris Art Fair*, both of which were engaging and inspirational.”

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