



Judge's Report

Lucy Culliton, artist and winner of the 2000 Mosman Art Prize

It has been both a pleasure and a privilege to be the judge of the 2013 Mosman Art Prize. I am honoured to be represented in the Mosman Art Collection itself, but also to be amongst the esteemed group of judges from past years. It seems I have come full circle from entering the Art Prize as a hopeful participant some thirteen years ago, to this year, being on the other side of the process, selecting the 2013 finalists from over 700 entries. My congratulations to all those artists who were selected this year in what was a highly competitive field, and I also thank all those artists who entered their artwork this year.

Selecting the winner of the major prize from the outstanding quality of entries was very difficult. In the end I chose Rachel Ellis for her painting *Bathurst landscape- William Street*. This is a beautifully considered and well constructed artwork with depth defined by subtle tones and a colour palette that leads the eye through the painting. Rachel Ellis is well known for her strong, tonal drawings in charcoal and here, with a brush and palette knife, she has introduced colour and increased the scale of her work to achieve an excellent result with great subtlety. The mark making the artist employs in her drawing practice has translated very well to her painting technique. Every mark is so carefully considered and each is essential to the success of the whole composition. This is a skill learnt through years of drawing practice that Rachel Ellis has benefited from, with this win being very timely for the artist. I feel this work will stand strong with those other 'stars' within Mosman's acquisitive Art Collection.

For the Commendation Prize I selected Janelle Thomas for her work *Hide and seek*. This painting has a freshness about it with a great sense of humour and a good surprise factor which caught my eye. It is painted quickly and assertively with a great use of primary colours balanced with the neutral tertiary colours. The left aligned composition achieves a great use of space and an overall sense of balance to the image.

The Allan Gamble Memorial Art Prize for the theme of the built environment goes to Alan Jones for his painting *Kirk Andrews upon Esk #3*. This work stands out for its rawness and immediacy as the artist has applied elements of painted collage which act in place of the

brush mark. The central image of the building is strongly grounded with an application of built up paint and collage, juxtaposed against areas of sparse, open ground, with an interesting background.

Remnim Alexander Tayco is the winner of the Young Emerging Artists' Award for his work *Before and after*. This evocative work demonstrates the artist's skillful hand, it is highly detailed, well considered and is constructed with a limited palette. The painting has an enigmatic narrative and a great sense of drama with a surrealist feel. Like a trick of the eye, this mysterious work poses questions to the viewer.

Again I would like to congratulate all of the entrants in the *2013 Mosman Art Prize* and hope you enjoy the selection of works in this year's exhibition.

Lucy Culliton

Judge, 2013 Mosman Art Prize

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