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**Media Release**

Wednesday, 5 February 2020

**The Jury Art Prize**

The Junction Co. and Courthouse Gallery+Studio team are excited to announce a new vision for Hedland's annual art award.

Introducing The Jury Art Prize, Port Hedland 2020, a contemporary, curated art prize that celebrates the diverse talents of regional Western Australian artists.

Hedland has celebrated Western Australian artistic talent for many years, and 2020 welcomes the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the local art award. The Jury Art Prize 2020 will showcase works across different mediums including painting, photography, sculpture, digital and mixed media, and be curated and judged by industry experts, with emphasis for the public to commend their favourite with a prize.

There are four key prize categories, the Judge's Prize, Encouragement Award, Jury Prize (people's choice) and Patron Award.

The renewed vision for the annual art award pays homage to the courthouse origins, and provides the people an opportunity to vote online for their favourite work. As Executive Office of The Junction Co. Katie Evans notes,

"We want to provide a dynamic platform for everyone to engage with The Jury Art Prize, and for people from across the world to contribute in determining the Jury Prize winner. The Jury Prize monies and the Judge's Prize will be equal.

The Patron Award will be awarded to a Hedland resident, and will provide a fund to support the ongoing development of the winner's art practice.

"We're honoured to be an integral part of the new Jury Art Prize by awarding the Patron Award to a local Hedland Artist. This marks a new chapter for The Town's commitment and involvement in the art award," said Hon. Commissioner Fred Riebeling.

Local artists look forward to the participating in a dynamic and high calibre regional art prize here in Hedland, Janelle McCaffrey says,

"The change is exiting, and I think it's great that local artists, like myself, have an opportunity to be judged against other Western Australian regional artists.

Winners of the Judges Prize, Encouragement Award and Patron Award will be announced at the exhibition opening, with voting for the Jury Prize (people's choice) commencing on opening night through an online portal on The Junction Co. Website.

Acting Chairperson Melinda McDonald notes,

"We're always looking for innovative and interactive ways to engage the public in regional arts, and The Jury Art Prize is the opportunity to lead the way for technology and social media to play a role in promoting Hedland's vibrant art scene.

Entries open for The Jury Art Prize 10 February and close 21 April, with the exhibition opening in Port Hedland on the 5 June 2020, 6pm, at the Courthouse Gallery+Studio.

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