
Media Release

Thursday 9, April 2020

The Jury Art Prize – Artwork showcase platform for regional artists

The Junction Co. and Courthouse Gallery+Studio team are thrilled to confirm that amid the difficult time of COVID-19, one of regional WA's most long-standing art awards, and recently reimagined, The Jury Art Prize 2020 (formerly the Hedland Art Awards), will still be going ahead as planned in June 2020.

Taking on the form of a virtual art prize, whereby finalists will have their work shown in a digital custom-built replica of the Courthouse Gallery+Studio gallery, with integrated zoom, tour and shopping capabilities, The Jury Art Prize still gives regional artists a platform to showcase their work to Western Australia and beyond!

The Junction Co. are pleased to confirm a prize pool of just under \$30,000 thanks to sponsors The Town of Port Hedland, Category5, and Roy Hill. There are four prize categories, The Judges Prize winner (\$10,000), Kathy Donnelly Award (\$3,000), and Patron's Award (\$3,000 scholarship for a Hedland artist) will be selected by a panel of judges, whilst the fourth prize category, the people's choice vote Jury Prize (\$10,000) will be announced at the close of the virtual exhibition.

Guest judge artist and curator Glenn Iseger-Pilkington, and Fremantle Art Centre curator Erin Coates, alongside a third judge, will announce the winners and launch the virtual exhibition on 5 June. Coates says,

"This award exhibition provides a snapshot of the huge diversity of creative practices across our state. At this point in time, it also reveals elements of the current contexts in which artists are creating work, with resilience, curiosity and imagination. It is both an honour and a pleasure to be invited as a judge this year.

"The Judges' Prize carries the status of a substantial award and I very much look forward to engaging with all the artworks that are contenders for this prize.

Artists across regional Western Australian are encouraged to make the most of their time indoors by pushing themselves to create work in time to meet The Jury Art Prize April submission deadline. Executive Officer Katie Evans explains,

"It's critical that we do our best to keep our community of artists motivated and their spirits high during this time – we are here to provide hope that the creative industries will continue to thrive.

The virtual gallery experience will be no different to visiting the exhibition in person, exhibition coordinator Elisa Trifunoski says,

"We began developing our virtual gallery back in January this year as it was always our plan to take The Jury Art Prize online.

"What we have learnt along the way is that it's important to deliver a virtual gallery experience where visitors are able to interact with the artwork just as they would in the physical gallery, including having the option to purchase artwork and in the case of The Jury Art Prize, vote for their favourite artwork.

The Junction Co. Chairperson Melinda McDonald notes,

“It is with the support of our sponsors, Hedland community and the broader WA community, that The Jury Art Prize is possible and will no doubt provide a welcome boost for a what is a difficult time in the creative community.

Key dates:

- Entries close: Tuesday 21 April 2020
- Finalists announced Friday 1 May 2020
- Selected finalist artworks to be delivered to Courthouse Gallery+Studio by Friday 15 May 2020
- Exhibition Dates: 5 June 2020 – 17 July 2020
- Official opening and winners announced: Friday 5 June 2020, 6pm

Applications to be submitted online: <https://thejunctionco.com.au/2020/06/05/the-jury-art-prize/>

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