

The Moran Prizes 2011

Exhibition at the State Library of New South Wales



Self-guided tour notes and activities

Background information

The Moran Prizes are a major event on the Australian arts calendar and are comprised of the Doug Moran National Portrait Prize and the Moran Contemporary Photographic Prize.

The Moran Health Care Group, the Moran Family and the Moran Arts Foundation are the benefactors of the annual Moran Prizes, which offer collective prize monies of up to \$300,000.

The State Library of NSW presents 31 portrait and 96 photographic finalists from a total of over 200,000 entries.

Both the Doug Moran National Portrait Prize and Moran Contemporary Photographic Prize are acquisitive prizes. This means that the major prize winning works automatically become the property of Moran.

Information on the Moran Prizes can be found at <www.moranprizes.com.au>.

SLNSW Media Release can be found here

<http://blog.sl.nsw.gov.au/media/index.cfm/2011/5/3/2011-moran-prizes-winners-announcement>

The Doug Moran National Portrait Prize

The Doug Moran National Portrait Prize is an annual Australian portrait prize founded by Doug Moran in 1988, the year of Australia's Bicentenary. It is the richest portrait prize in the world with A\$150,000 awarded to the winner and A\$10,000 awarded to the runner-up. The exhibition of finalists is held initially at the State Library of NSW from 21 April until 26 June 2011 and then around Australia in a subsequent touring exhibition.

The aim of the competition is to promote contemporary Australian portraiture and, as such, entry conditions stipulate that both the artist and their subject be an Australian citizen or resident for at least one year before the closing date for entries. However, it is not required that the artist or the subject be well known. Portraits that reveal a deep connection between the artist and their subject are well received by the judges.

Submission requirements

The portrait should be:

- of the head and all or part of the subject
- painted from life, partly in front of the sitter
- painted in oils, acrylics, egg tempera, watercolour or mixed media
- essentially two-dimensional, with a suitably prepared surface
- a maximum size of 3 m wide by 2.7 m high (including frame size)
- an original, unaided work painted and owned by the artist.

The portrait forming an entry must have been finished within the 12 months before 1 March 2011.

About the judges

Judges for the 2011 Doug Moran National Portrait Prize are prominent Australian artist Michael Zavros and Louise Doyle, Director of the National Portrait Gallery.

www.michaelzavros.com/

www.portrait.gov.au/

Previous winners: Doug Moran National Portrait Prize

1988: Penny Dowie, *Caitlin*

1990: Robert Hannaford, *Bill*

1992: Siv Grava, *Self-portrait*

1994: Josonia Palaitis, *John Mills*

1996: Greg Creek, *Picture of Carolyn Eskdale*

1998: Esther Erlich, *Gaunt and glorious: Steve Moneghetti*

2000: Kristin Headlam, *Self-portrait in bed with the animals*

2002: David Fairbairn, *Red portrait Suzanne* [his wife, Suzanne Archer]

2004: Prudence Flint, *A fine romance #9*

2006: Peter Wegner, *The wounded poet* [of the poet Graham Doyle]

2007: Leslie Rice, *Self-portraiture*

2008: Fiona Lowry, *What I assume you shall assume* [self-portrait]

2009: Ben Quilty, *Jimmy Barnes: There but for the grace of God go I, No. 2*

2010: Michael Zavros, *Phoebe is dead / McQueen*

The Moran Contemporary Photographic Prize

Run in conjunction with the Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, the Moran Contemporary Photographic Prize (MCP) is a national photographic competition created to promote contemporary photography and excellence in all forms of still photo-based artwork, including all types of analogue and digital photography. Images can be either colour or black and white. Entrants are asked to interpret 'Contemporary Life in Australia' with an emphasis on Australians going about their day-to-day lives within their environment. The photographs submitted must have been taken within a year of the closing date.

There are two sections in the Moran Contemporary Photographic Prize: an Open Section and a Schools Section with total prize money of \$130,000. First prize in the Open Section is \$100,000 with up to \$10,000 awarded for highly commended works and a total of \$20,000 in the Schools Section. The two sections are clearly delineated from each other in the exhibition at the State Library of NSW from 21 April 2011 until 26 June 2011 and in a subsequent touring exhibition.

About the judge

The judge for the 2011 competition is award-winning photographer and writer Robert McFarlane.

He has a website and a blog which is regularly updated with reviews of recent exhibitions.

www.robertmcfarlanephotos.com/

www.ozphotoreview.blogspot.com/

Previous winners: *Moran Contemporary Photographic Prize*

Open section

2007: Ben Searcy, *Waiting for News on David — Terry and Bev Hicks on the five-year anniversary of David's detainment*

2008: Belinda Mason, *Four generations*

2009: Dean Sewell, *A dry argument*

2010: Dean Sewell, *Cockatoo Is. ferry*

Secondary schools, years 11–12

2007: Ronnie Ling, *The usual suspects*

2008: Alex Case, *Where you've been hiding*

2010: Annie Rose Armour, *Brother*

Secondary schools, years 9–10

2007: Ronald Au, *Otamop*

2008: Larissa Enright, *Sinking*

2010: Tamara Schier, *Innocent killers*

Secondary schools, years 7–8

2007: Vonny Chui, *Constant change*

2008: Alden Leong, *Pollution*

2010: Lorren Chiodo, *Falling*

ACTIVITIES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Doug Moran National Portrait Prize

- One work is not shown as a single painting on the wall, it is an animated sequence of many paintings. The subject is painted at different stages of putting on make-up. How does this work challenge the traditions of painting?
- Some paintings are very three-dimensional, while some mimic a glossy photograph. What makes a painting a painting?
- There are small works as well as large works. How do you view each? Walk up close to small works and sit back for large works. Try the opposite and see how it changes the way you understand the work.
- There is a man with a shoe on his head, a half gorilla/half man and a man kissing a ghostlike form. What might these symbols mean?
- What work do you think took the longest/shortest amount of time to paint?

Moran Contemporary Photographic Prize

- Look for a photograph of someone you think would be interesting. What story could they tell you?
- How can you tell that the images are about Australian life? Find two photographs that tell you something about Australians.
- Most of the photographs are not of famous or well-known people. Why are they still important?
- Some photos are black and white, while some are in colour. How does this change how you read each image? Do you lose or gain a response from a black and white work compared to a coloured work?
- Some photographs have their subject right in the centre of the frame, some do not. What do you think is more visually appealing/interesting?
- Do any of the photos seem familiar to you? Are there things that you can personally respond to in any work? Does this make you feel more Australian in a way?
- Look at student work. What things in these photos are familiar to you?
- How is a student's/child's perspective different to an adult's?

ANALYSIS

The Doug Moran National Portrait Prize

CRITICAL AND HISTORICAL

Frames

When you think about art, how would you define style?

There are many different styles of paintings in the exhibition. Each artist has used different painting techniques to represent their subject. Identify one work which seems **unique** to you and describe the structural elements the artist has employed (line, direction, shape, size, colour, texture and tone).

Practice

Who was the winning painting created by? What makes it outstanding?

What process has the artist gone through to make this work? Consider the ideas/concept, planning/preparation, working with the subject, creating the work and finishing the work.

Conceptual Framework

A portrait is about the subject and the artist — discuss, using an example work from the exhibition.

Follow-up activity

Students research one of the finalists and find other examples of their work. Compare their Moran work with other works and write a summary of their style. Find information and examples of their work for comparison. Is there continuity in their work? A developed or ongoing theme? How is the work typical or different from their other work?

ARTMAKING

The Doug Moran National Portrait Prize entries do not have to be of a famous or recognised person (like the Archibald). Find a partner and use them as the subject for a portrait drawing. Go through the process of idea creation, planning, dialoguing with the subject and making the work.

Follow-up activity

Exhibit your work with others from your class/year and hold a competition. Act as the judge; write down your pick and the reasons why it best represents the subject. Your teacher or a guest judge may award a final prize to their choice of the best work from the group and a highly commended prize too.

Moran Contemporary Photographic Prize

CRITICAL AND HISTORICAL

Frames

Find the winning work.

Would you have chosen this work as the best of the finalists? Why?/Why not?
What photographic work is your favourite? (Subjective frame)

Describe what features make it your favourite. Consider subject matter, techniques. (Structural frame)

Find a work that has a cultural reference which may include the use of a symbol which represents a point of view. What meaning is conveyed in the work? (Cultural frame)

Practice

Find a photographic work that you think shows good use of lighting. In a short paragraph, describe how you think the artist created the work. Include reference to light sources, working with the subject and exposure techniques.

Conceptual Framework

Who is the intended audience for the Moran Prize?

Why do you think the prize money is so high? Does this affect the quality of works submitted?

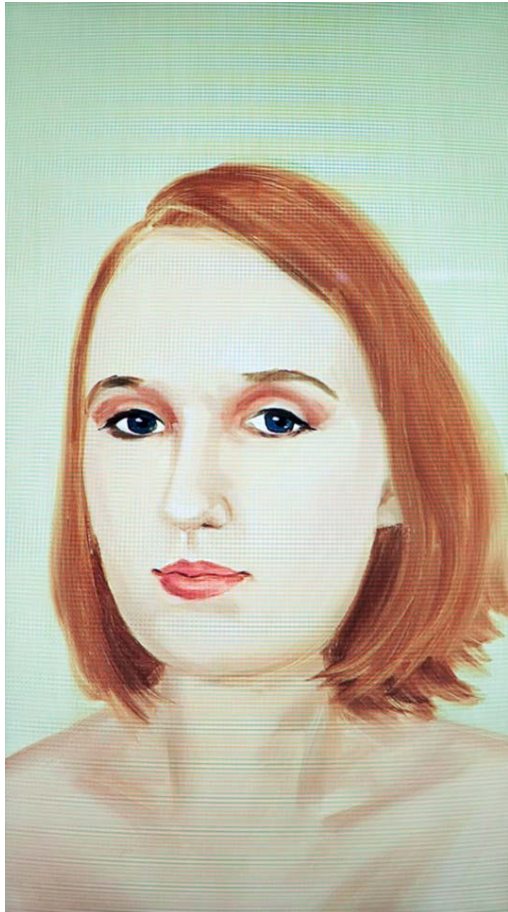
ARTMAKING

In your Art Diary write a list of five things that you think represent 'Contemporary Australian Life'. Examples could be multiculturalism, life by the beach, core values such as mateship, mannerisms, or what people do for work or recreation.

Using one or more of these ideas, draw a plan for a photograph which depicts your interpretation of 'Contemporary Australian Life'. Consider your audience and how they would interpret your idea.

Follow-up activity

Photograph your idea (above) using a variety of techniques to convey a mood which complements your idea and makes it easy for your audience to relate to. Print and display your work in an exhibition.



Muse
Julia Holden



Michael Reid
Adam Cullen (Highly Commended)



Ben Ben – portrait of Quilty
Paul Ryan



Le trophée
VR Morrison



Rex at Maroubra 2011
Nicholas Harding (Runner Up)



Baz Lurhmann 'off screen'
Vincent Fantauzzo (Winner)



Yvonne Margarulla on the banks of Magella Creek
Glenn Campbell (Highly Commended)



Love at first sight
Nicole Ramsay (Highly Commended)



Spiritual
Matt Walker (Highly Commended)



Mossman Gorge – Monday afternoon
Lachlan Moore (Highly Commended)



World Rare Disease Day – Steve Waugh and Sarah Walker
Jack Ately (Winner)