

## Media Release

### **Perpetual announces recipients of the 2018 A.M.E. Bale Travelling Scholarship and Art Prize**

**29 November 2018**

Perpetual has announced Nicolas Chen as the winner of the prestigious \$50,000 A.M.E. Bale Travelling Scholarship, managed by Perpetual as trustee of the Alice Marian Ellen Bale Art Foundation Trust.

The A.M.E. Bale Travelling Scholarship and Art Prize is awarded biennially to emerging Australian artists who have demonstrated talent and achievement in traditional styles. Over 190 submissions were received for the prize pool this year, valued at \$60,000 in total.

Caitriona Fay, General Manager, Community and Social Investments at Perpetual said: "This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary the A.M.E. Bale Travelling Scholarship and Art Prize have been awarded. The travelling scholarship is a premier award and sought-after prize for up-and-coming artists keen to build their career.

"Alice Marian Ellen Bale was one of Australia's pre-eminent painters of flowers and still life of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century who had great foresight as a philanthropist to provide emerging artists with the opportunity to grow as artists and experience different art cultures."

Speaking on behalf of the judging panel, drawn from the notable members of the Twenty Melbourne Painters Society, President and Chairperson Raymond Hewitt said: "As in previous years, the standard of submissions were all remarkably high. The judging panel recognises superior skill and potential in Nicolas' work and we believe he will benefit and grow significantly as an artist from the opportunities provided by the travelling scholarship."

The recipient of the scholarship, Nicolas Chen, said he was extremely grateful to be given this opportunity to combine his passion for art and travel.

Based in Melbourne, Mr Chen has always been dedicated to his own personal study and exploration, drawing and painting full-time for the past 11 years. He began his formal training at the Julian Ashton Art School in 2007 and received a full-time scholarship in 2009. Upon graduating in 2010, Mr Chen continued further study abroad at the Florence Academy of Art from 2011 to 2014. Mr Chen has many notable achievements, including being a Cambridge Studio Gallery Portrait Prize finalist this year, a Cliftons Art Prize finalist and Doug Moran National Portrait Prize Semi-finalist in 2015 and previously an A.M.E. Bale Travelling Scholarship finalist in 2014.

"Over the past four years, I have been working independently on my own artistic development away from a school environment. This has provided me with ample time for reflection on my work and has given me greater clarity of what I wish to achieve artistically in both the near and distant future.

"There is always more to learn and study, personal and artistic development is always on my agenda. In order to expand my visual vocabulary and deepen my understanding of art and picture making, I feel it is important to see and experience old master paintings in person. It would be hugely beneficial to my

growth as an artist to experience these paintings in the flesh and I am thrilled I will be able to experience this," commented Mr. Chen

Mr Chen intends to use the \$50,000 scholarship for intensive study and workshops in France, tour selected art galleries and museums across Europe and America to study old master paintings and use the experience from his travels and studies to create artworks to exhibit and share with the public upon his return.

Describing what he hopes to experience on his travels, Mr Chen said: "I expect to learn a great deal about painting technique, colour theory, image making and the spirit in which great works of art have been created throughout history. The opportunity to utilise the knowledge and experience gained throughout the trip to create a body of work to exhibit, will help launch my career as a painter in earnest."

In addition to the main travelling scholarship, two art prizes valued at \$5,000 each are also awarded biennially. The 2018 A.M.E. Bale Art Prize in the medium of oils and/or acrylics was awarded to Colleen Stapleton for her painting of *Girl with a hoop earring* and the 2018 A.M.E. Bale Art Prize for works on paper was given to Byron Copland for his work *Double Portrait Study*.

The exhibition of finalists is on display from now until 9 December 2018 at the Glen Eira City Council Gallery in Melbourne.

– Ends –

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**Note to editors**

**About the A.M.E. Bale Travelling Scholarship and Art Prize**

The A.M.E. Bale Travelling Scholarship and Art Prize are awarded to Australian artists who have demonstrated talent and achievement in traditional styles. This includes realist, figurative and representational styles. They are intended to encourage, support and advance classical training of emerging artists (in their early to mid-career) at any stage of life, who are pursuing the study and practice of traditional art and who desire to study the works of old masters.

There are three categories awarded:

- Major Award for a travelling scholarship – currently valued at \$50,000
- A.M.E. Bale Art Prize in the medium of oils and/or acrylics – currently valued at \$5,000
- A.M.E. Bale Art Prize for works on paper – currently valued at \$5,000

**About A.M.E. Bale and the Awards**

A.M.E. Bale was born in Melbourne in 1875 and studied art under Federick McCubbin and L Bernard Hall at the National Gallery Art School in

Melbourne. She developed a reputation as a fine artist who distinguished herself particularly as one of Australia's pre-eminent flower and still life painters of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Today she is represented in a number of major state and regional art galleries.

Miss Bale was the founding secretary of the Twenty Melbourne Painters Society, a position that she held until her death in 1955. Through her will, she established the A.M.E. Bale Travelling Scholarship and Art Prize to support Australian artists in perpetuity.

Today, the tradition of A.M.E. Bale's relationship with Twenty Melbourne Painters Society is continued through the judging panel for the Travelling Scholarship and Art Prize. The judging panel is comprised through the Society and provides expert assistance to the trustee in judging the award, taking into consideration the implementation of both the spirit and letter of Miss Bale's will. The exhibition of finalist works is held biennially at Glen Eira City Council Gallery, Hawthorn Rd, Caulfield VIC 3162.

#### **About Perpetual Philanthropic Services**

Perpetual is one of Australia's largest managers of philanthropic funds, with \$2.7 billion in funds under advice for charitable trusts and endowment funds as at 30 June 2018. Perpetual is trustee for approximately 1,000 [charitable trusts and endowments](#) and provides individuals and families with advice on establishing charitable foundations and structured giving programs. Perpetual also assists charities and not-for-profit organisations with [investment advice and management](#).

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