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Media Release

Portia Geach Memorial Award finalists revealed

Perpetual announces 2020 shortlist for Australia's most recognised portrait prize for women

A list of 61 works by 59 artists has been announced today for the country's most distinguished portrait prize for female artists, the Portia Geach Memorial Award. The \$30,000 annual prize is administered by the Award Trustee, Perpetual.

Established in 1961 by Florence Kate Geach, in memory of her sister, artist Portia Geach, the Portia Geach Memorial Award recognises an Australian female artist for the best portrait painted from life of a man or woman distinguished in art, letters or the sciences.

Born in 1873 in Melbourne, Portia Geach studied with John Singer Sargent and Lawrence Alma-Tadema in London and was also a lifelong activist for women's rights. She established the Housewives Progressive Association of New South Wales, The Housewives Magazine in 1933 and the Progressive Journal two years later to promote issues such as equal pay for women and the right to hold public office.

The judging panel for this year's award comprised Ms Anita Belgiorno-Nettis, Trustee of Art Gallery of New South Wales, Ms Natalie Wilson, Curator of Australian and Pacific Art at The Art Gallery of New South Wales and Ms Jane Watters, Director S.H Ervin Gallery.

Some of the well-known sitters for this year's award include radio presenter Phillip Adams; actor Claudia Karvin; author and playwright Louis Nowra; indigenous dancers Ella Havelka and Tayvonne Cora; TV presenter Richard Morecroft; dancer Anthea Pilko; the late Jack Munday; businessman Luca Belgiorno-Nettis; Francophile Professor Ross Steele AM and concert pianist Simon Tedeschi.

FINALISTS

JANE ALIENDI *Self Portrait - The Instagramer after The Sock Knitter*

SALLY ANDERSON *Claude Swimming* (Claudia Karvin, actress, producer and writer)

ANN ARORA *The Mirror* (self / daughter, artist / student)

MICHELLE BELGIORNO *A Contemplative Moment* (Guido Belgiorno-Nettis, businessman and arts philanthropist (currently Chair of the ACO and ex Trustee of AGNSW))

KATE BEYNON *The Robe* Kate Beynon (self portrait)

RENEE BRODERS *A place to call my own* (Thelma Plum, Australian musician)

FILIPPA BUTTITTA *Radiotherapy during Covid-19* (self portrait)

ANN CAPE *Sophie and Scout* (Sophie Cape, artist)

YVETTE COPPERSMITH *June 2020, Chanel Earrings* (self portrait)

ANTHEA da SILVA *Veronica* (Veronica Collins, artist)

JANINE DELLO *Too Much I* (self portrait)

JANINE DELLO *Too Much II* (self portrait)

KATHERINE EDNEY *Gary Grealy in Black & White* (Gary Grealy, photographer)

NICOLETTE EISDELL *Juliet at Home* (Juliet Holmes à Court, artist)

MARINA FINLAY *Professor Ross Steele AM* (Professor of French language and culture)

LORNA GREAR *Lockdown in the bath* (self portrait)

JANE GUTHLEBEN *(Misha, the pole dancer Michelle Cawthorn, artist)*

HANNAH HALL *Lotus Lady* (self portrait)

ILDIKO HAMMOND *Self-Portrait IV - The Recluse*

JACQUELINE HENNESSY *The Offering*(self portrait)

SOPHIA HEWSON *Untitled* (self portrait)

MICHELLE HISCOCK *The Flâneur* (Louis Nowra, author)

JANNE KEARNEY *Power flower* (Tegan Kearney, manager with Country Fire Authority Victoria)

NICOLE KELLY *Night studio* (self portrait)

KIM LEUTWYLER *Dee with pink, green and blue* (Dee Smart, artist and actor)

KATHRIN LONGHURST *Muddy Waters* (Maia Longhurst, student)

ALISON MACKAY *The Beloved* (Richard Morecroft, TV Presenter and arts interviewer)

MARIE MANSFIELD *Waiting* (Ashlee Bucholtz, artist and art educator)

MARIE MANSFIELD *Charlie and Kate* (Kate Smith, art collector / artist patron)

KAITA MASON *Julia's Studio* (Julia Flanagan, artist)

ANNE McCAUGHEY *Judy in Lockdown Land* (Judy Hendricksen, dancer/ associate school Principal)

KERRY McINNIS *Iso Yoga selfie* (self portrait)

MATILDA MICHELL *Self in an empty room* (self portrait)

HEATHER MILLER *Two Thirds* (self portrait)

GRANKIE MORGAN *Julia in Desire* (Julia Wilson, comedian)

JUSTINE MULLER *Jack Munday* (environmentalist and activist)

FIONA O'BYRNE *Eleven Years* (Remy Frazzetto, Year 6 Student)

SUSAN O'DOHERTY *Myfanwy Gullifer in olive green coat* (Myfanwy Gullifer, artist)

RENATA PARI-LEWIS *Phillip* (Phillip Adams, radio presenter, entrepreneur, art collector)

JOSEPHINE PEREIRA *Self portrait*

SHARON PINCUS JACOBSON *Tony Taussig, Architect*

VICTORIA REICHELT *Interior* (artist's children)

JENNY RODGERSON *Solitary Figure* (self portrait)

JENNIFER ROSNELLI *Nurse Jacqui* (Jacqui Blundell, emergency nurse - COVID trained)

SALLY RYAN *Alone* Xeni Kusumitra, artist

LYNN SAVERY *In your dreams* (self portrait)

KIRTHANA SELVARAJ *The green suit, a self portrait*

THERESE SHANLEY *In the jumper* (self portrait)

WENDY SHARPE *Self portrait – Walking home* (self portrait)

LORIBELLE SPIROVSKI *The Reader* (Simon Tedeschi, concert pianist)

DEE SMART *Leap of Faith* (Ella Havelka, ballet dancer)

LIZ STUTE *Untying the laces -Self Portrait*

TRISH TAIT *The Conversation* (Hugh Tait, pharmacist and musician)

JILL TALBOT *The Keeper* (Kirli Saunders, author and poet)

JESKA VALK *Ghearra* (Tayvonne Cora, dancer)

DEBORAH WALKER *Georgia (as Agatha Christie in Blue Mountains, NSW, 1922)* (Georgia Gibbs, writer)

NATASHA WALSH *Doppelgänger* (self portrait)

VICKI WHITE *Zooming Jill* (Jill Dunkerton, artist)

ZOE YOUNG *The Scarf Knitter* (Margaret Young, artists mother)

CAROLINE ZILINSKY *Anthea may or may not* (Anthea Pilko, contemporary dancer)

MICHELLE ZUCCOLO *Becky, Fire Crew* (Rebecca Jonkers, crew member, Forest Fire Management and tertiary student)

The winner of the 2020 Portia Geach Memorial Award will be revealed on Thursday 13 August with an exhibition of all finalists open for viewing by the public from 14 August – 20 September at the S.H. Ervin Gallery, The Rocks.

For more information on the award, visit www.shervingallery.com.au

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Award Administrator

Award Trustee

About the Portia Geach Memorial Award

The Portia Geach Memorial Award was established by Florence Kate Geach in memory of her sister, artist Portia Geach, who spent much of her life campaigning for the rights of women in Australia and was determined to make a living from painting. Geach was widely acclaimed as a leading artist and was a frequent commentator in the national media – making her an iconic figure in the Australian arts community.

The Portia Geach Memorial Award is awarded by Perpetual as Trustee, to the entry with the highest artistic merit.

About Perpetual Philanthropic Services

Perpetual is one of Australia's largest managers of philanthropic funds, with \$2.9 billion in funds under advice for charitable trusts and endowment funds (as at 30 June 2019). Perpetual is trustee for approximately 1,000 [charitable trusts and endowments](#) (as at 30 June 2019) 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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