

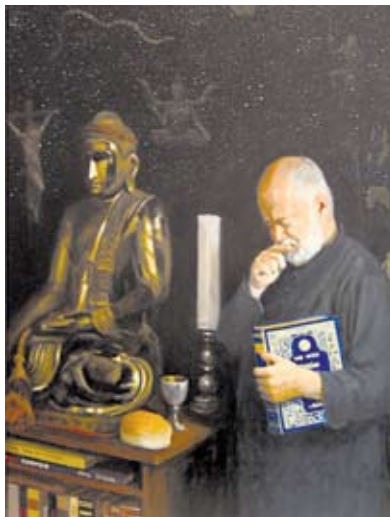


57th Blake Prize Touring Exhibition

Exploring the religious and spiritual in art

The Blake Prize is one of the more prestigious art prizes in Australia. Since 1951 it has been awarding a prize for works of art that explore the subject of religious awareness and spirituality.

Since its inception, the Prize has brought to the attention of the art world new and emerging artist as well as allowing for innovation and experimentation of expression. In more recent years, the Blake has seen something of a revival of interest with increasing numbers of entries and a diversity of ideas being expressed in the works. The search for a visual means of expressing deeply held perceptions and beliefs is rewarded each year in an exhibition that begins its life in Sydney and then travels around Australia.



'The Contemplation of a Secular Man'
oil on canvas by Peter Smeeth

The Prize was the brainchild of Richard Morley, a Jewish businessman, and Michael Scott, a Jesuit educationalist, who believed that such a Prize would provide contemporary works of art for the many new churches and synagogues being built in the post war suburban sprawl.

While religious authorities were generally taken aback by the modern flavour of these new investigations, it was the artists who most welcomed the Blake as it allowed them to express more personal subject matter; in short, it rewarded innovation and daring.

The Prize was named after the mystic artist and writer William Blake who is celebrated for his creative commitments rather than his adherence to any particular dogma.

Surprise is the more characteristic response to each year's exhibition rather than a confirmation of any traditional iconography. In the search for fresh contemporary expressions of spirituality artists have continued to extend the envelope of the Blake to encompass a wide diversity of religious expression drawing on major religious traditions such as Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism and Judaism, as well as indigenous spirituality. The Blake has fostered this breadth of diversity and celebrated the various rich traditions that make up the landscape of belief in Australia.

More personal responses have also found their way into the Blake's gamut with explorations of feminism and gender, connections with the natural world and the wider referencing of the political influences of war, ecology and globalisation. There is nothing the Blake doesn't seem to cover even tolerating parody, irony and humour over against



Artist Books



'A Local Girl Comes Home' by David Tucker Winner - Blake Prize for Religious Art 2008

the usually serious face of organised religion. Each year there is much to be annoyed by, seduced by, or simply inspired by. It is a thoroughly ecumenical experience for the eyes!

A Prize for Religious Art reminds us that the arts have a valuable role to play in a society as we explore the place of passion, love, belief and action. Learning to appreciate the diversity of belief allows more opportunity to act together with understanding and compassion.

Art allows us to speculate on the mystery of life, while learning to appreciate the deeply held perceptions of people different to us without needing to agree with their ideas. Art has always had a close relationship to religious expression and exploration. It is a medium suited to exploring the many creative paths that people take on their life journey and honouring that diversity.



'Untitled 2007' (from "snowforms")
digital image by Luke Hardy

Gallery M and the City of Marion are very proud to be hosting this major exhibition, and expect that it will draw wide interest from the people of Adelaide. Twenty eight artworks will be on display, including all the current winners. The work includes paintings, 3D and mixed media, as well as digital artworks. Thank you to Sony Central, Adelaide for generously loaning the new eco model Sony Bravia TV.

In addition to the artworks, bound books containing the Blake Poetry Prize entries will also be on display.

Community exhibition opening
12.30 - 4pm, Sunday 21 June

Guest Speaker Cr Irene Whennan will officially open the exhibition at 1.30pm. Free entry, all welcome.

14 June

CLOSE OF CURRENT EXHIBITION

21 June - 31 July

WHOLE GALLERY EXHIBITION

▶ *'57th Blake Prize Touring exhibition'*

The Blake Prize reflects the multi-cultural nature of Australian society with works of art expressive of diverse religious faiths and others reflecting the spirituality of indigenous peoples.

The exhibition promotes religious and cultural diversity by fostering artistic and religious discourse.

7 - 30 August

WHOLE GALLERY EXHIBITION

▶ *'RH-09'*

Artwork in various media by members of **The Red House Group** coinciding with SALA Festival (7 - 23 August)

4 - 27 September

THREE EXHIBITIONS

- ▶ Paintings by **Glenda Gregory & Jim Duncan**
- ▶ Photography by **Karyle & Terry Friebe**
- ▶ Paintings by **Marie-Claire Ralph**

2 - 25 October

TWO EXHIBITIONS

- ▶ Artwork in various media by artists associated with **GROW (SA)**
- ▶ Paintings by **Stephen Smart**

30 October - 22 November

WHOLE GALLERY EXHIBITION

Artwork in various media in conjunction with FEAST Festival

29 November - 10 January

WHOLE GALLERY EXHIBITION

'8th Annual City of Marion Community exhibition'

Artwork by residents of the City of Marion.

Don't miss out on exhibiting in 2010 !!
Exhibition information can be found at
www.gallerym.net.au

talking shop



Zeitgeist...

a unique selection of art and gift items by local artists, coinciding with the Blake Prize exhibition.

