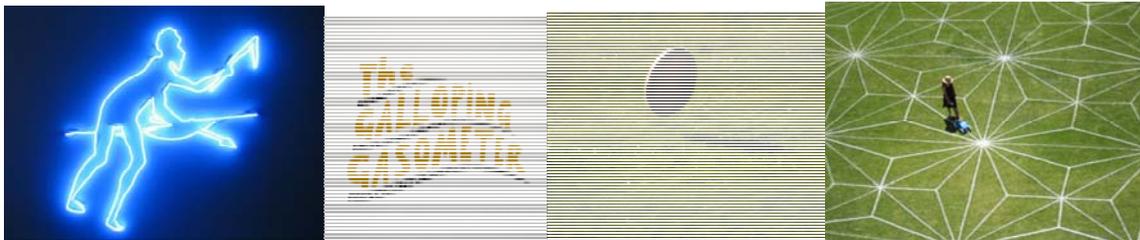


The Ian Potter Museum of Art The University of Melbourne



22 May 2012



Artists tackle sport in \$100,000 Basil Sellers Art Prize 2012

Fifteen artists are tackling a wide range of sport related art projects, with just a couple of months to go before the exhibition and announcement of the 2012 winner of the 3rd biennial \$100,000 Basil Sellers Art Prize. The Prize is one of the most significant opportunities available to contemporary Australian artists.

The shortlisted artists are: Brook Andrew, Richard Bell, Lauren Brincat, Jon Campbell, Pat Macan, Louise Hearman, Greg Creek, Eugene Carchesio, Gabriella Mangano and Silvana Mangano, Simon Perry, Kerrie Poliness, Patrick Pound, Christian Thompson, Sangeeta Sandrasegar.

Curator at the Ian Potter Museum of Art, University of Melbourne, Bala Starr, says the variety of subject matter and the range of media employed will be a real feature of this year's exhibition.

"The theme of sport and art allows for endless issues and executions which make the Basil Sellers Art Prize such an intriguing event.

"The links between sport and art that are the focus of entries in the Basil Sellers Art Prize provide numerous opportunities to challenge existing preconceptions," Ms Starr said.

Brook Andrew is presenting work which explores the athleticism of traditional indigenous hunting techniques and the iconography of the boomerang.

Jon Campbell is exploring sporting imagery through a series of text-based enamel paintings featuring the great nicknames given to some of Australia's AFL legends.

Louise Hearman is working on a series of paintings relating to the AFL. She is being assisted in her research for the project by Steven Smith, a former captain of the Melbourne Football Club, and current board member of the Melbourne Cricket Club.

And Gabriella Mangano and Silvana Mangano are currently working on compiling a soundscape from a range of sports as a stimulus for filming movement to accompany the sound.

The winner's prize is supplemented by a \$5,000 'Yarra Trams People's Choice Award', a major exhibition of finalists' work accompanied by a catalogue and education programs. A further opportunity for artists is the \$50,000 Basil Sellers Creative Fellowship at the National Sports Museum in 2013.

This year's judging panel includes businessman and former rugby legend Nick Farr-Jones, Erica Green, Director of the Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art at the University of South Australia, Lisa Havilah, CEO of Carriageworks, Sydney, and the Director of the Ian Potter Museum of Art, Dr Chris McAuliffe.

The Basil Sellers Art Prize 2012 winner will be announced at the exhibition gala opening on 2 August 2012, and the finalists' works will be on display at the Ian Potter Museum of Art, University of Melbourne, 3 August until 4 November, 2012.

ENDS

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Images available upon request

<http://www.sellersartprize.com.au/artists-and-exhibition/2012/shortlisted-artists/>

The Ian Potter Museum of Art, The University of Melbourne, Swanston Street (between Elgin and Faraday streets), Parkville, 3010. T: 03 8344 5148 W: www.art-museum.unimelb.edu.au
Hours: Tuesday to Friday 10am - 5pm: Saturday and Sunday 12 - 5pm (Free admission)

Top (left to right)

Brook Andrews, *The hunter*, 2005, neon, edition 1 of 5, 173 x 160 cm (irreg.), © Courtesy the artist and Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

Jon Campbell, *Dream team* (detail), 2012, enamel paint on plywood, dimensions variable, © Courtesy the artist and Kalimanrawlins, Melbourne

Louise Hearman, *Untitled*, 2012, oil on board, 61 x 74 cm, © Courtesy the artist and Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney

Kerrie Poliness, *Field drawing #1* (installation view), 2008, Bio-paint and sports field line marker, dimensions variable, © Courtesy the artist and Anna Schwartz Gallery

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The prize has been initiated and generously supported by Basil Sellers AM. Basil, a businessman and philanthropist, has made his career breathing life into ailing companies. He has fittingly been described as the turnaround king. A recognised art collector, Basil divides his time between Europe and Australia (or wherever the Sydney Swans are playing that weekend).

Basil says, "My hope is that this prize will take lovers of sport and art into what may be uncharted, but ultimately rewarding, territory, leading to an engagement that will enhance their enjoyment of each other's loves".

The Basil Sellers Art Prize is a long-term project, involving 5 biennial awards from 2008 to 2016 staged at The Ian Potter Museum of Art, University of Melbourne, aimed at changing Australians' perception and enjoyment of art and sport.

The prize is acquisitive.