

Media Release

July 18, 2012

BASIL
SELLERS
ART
PRIZE

3 August to 4 November, 2012

Sports legends join Sellers Art Prize

Some of the biggest names in Australian sport will be supporting this year's prestigious \$100,000 Basil Sellers Art Prize.

Cricket heroes Glenn McGrath and Steve Waugh AM and AFL football legends Brett Kirk and Paul Roos have been appointed as 2012 Ambassadors to the third biennial Basil Sellers Art Prize and exhibition at the Ian Potter Museum of Art, University of Melbourne. They will join existing Ambassador, sports media personality Samantha Lane, to promote the Basil Sellers Art Prize's unique link between sport and art.

Acting Director of the Potter, Mr Christopher Menz, said he is delighted that sportspeople of such renown are helping promote the ideals of the Basil Sellers Art Prize.

"Sport and art are significant aspects of Australian society and culture, yet too often they are regarded as mutually exclusive.

"The interaction between our passions for art and sport that is encouraged by the Prize will help challenge existing beliefs and preconceptions. The involvement of such well-loved sportspeople as Ambassadors in this year's Prize can do much to refocus public attention on the roles of sport and art in the Australian psyche," Mr Menz said.

One of Australia's most prestigious and richest art awards, the Basil Sellers Art Prize 2012 invites entrants to submit art works that respond to the theme of art and sport. It has attracted an eclectic field of fascinating artists who will bring their unique perspectives to the interrelationship between sport and art.

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

The Judging Panel comprises Nick Farr-Jones, the Former ruby union champion who captained the Wallabies to Australia's first World Cup in 1991, Erica Green, inaugural Director of the Anne and Gordon Samstag Museum of Art, Lisa Havilah, CEO of CarriageWorks, Sydney and Dr Chris McAuliffe, Director, the Ian Potter Museum of Art; and Basil Sellers AM.

TO PREVIEW THIS EXHIBITION AND PLAN MEDIA COVERAGE ON THE AWARD, CONTACT:

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Basil Sellers Art Prize www.sellersartprize.com.au

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)

BACKGROUND:

As one of Australia's richest art prizes, the Basil Sellers Art Prize breaks with tradition, developing a substantial prize that concentrates entirely on sport. Not the Archibald in a footy jumper, the prize is a fresh take on the theme, encouraging artists to boldly ask the questions, rattle our preconceptions and explore sporting culture—perhaps luring art and sports supporters from their strongly held positions on opposite sides of the ring.

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 Basil Sellers Art Prize 2012 awards \$100,000 for the winning art work and the Prize is acquisitive. Visitors to the exhibition will vote for the \$5,000 People's Choice Award. One of the shortlisted artists in the exhibition will be selected as the 2013 Basil Sellers Creative Fellowship, a \$50,000 artist-in-residency program at the National Sports Museum, MCG.