

**Media Release**

**Embargoed until 3 April 2013**

## **Game on! Entries invited for Basil Sellers Art Prize 4**

Artists are invited to enter a prestigious and distinctively Australian prize; the \$100,000 Basil Sellers Art Prize. One of Australia's richest art prizes, the Basil Sellers Art Prize is unique in combining art and sport. 'This is the only major art prize in the world dedicated to sport', said the acting director of the Ian Potter Museum of Art, Dr Nigel Baldwin. 'We've seen everything from ping pong to petanque, from MotoGP to amateur cricket', said Dr Baldwin. 'And because there are no restrictions on medium, the prize has included everything from painting and photography to motorised sculptures, ceramic trophies and choreographed work-outs'.

Founded in 2008 and awarded biennially, the fourth Basil Sellers Art Prize will be presented in 2014. Artists can enter now for what is a life-changing opportunity. Previous winners—Daniel Crooks (2008), Tarryn Gill and Pilar Mata Dupont (2010), and Jon Campbell (2012)—have all gone on to exhibit in major international forums.

The judging panel also unites art and sport, with representatives of major art museums and sporting organisations selecting a shortlist of finalists from among hundreds of entries from across Australia. The judging panel will include: Liz Ann Macgregor, director of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; Kelly Gellatly, newly appointed director of the Potter; Dr Chris McAuliffe, former director of the Potter; Robert Cook, curator at the Art Gallery of WA; and Michael Hawker, chairman of Australian Rugby Union Ltd and recently named in *The Australian* as one of the 50 most influential people in Australian sport.

'With the support of art collector and sports fan, Basil Sellers', said Dr Baldwin, 'we are able to offer finalists substantial financial rewards and significant career opportunities. In addition to the \$100,000 first prize, all finalists receive a \$3,000 participation fee. There's a \$5,000 People's Choice award and a chance to be selected for the \$50,000 Basil Sellers Creative Fellowship at the National Sports Museum in 2015. We think the Basil Sellers Art Prize offers more to artists than any other art prize in Australia'.

Entries close: Friday 21 June 2013

Shortlist announced: August 2013

Exhibition at the Ian Potter Museum of Art: July–November 2014

**ENDS**

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**BACKGROUND** [www.sellersartprize.com.au](http://www.sellersartprize.com.au)

As one of Australia's newest and richest art prizes, the Basil Sellers Art Prize breaks with tradition, developing a substantial prize that concentrates entirely on sport. Artists are encouraged to explore a national obsession and an Australian tradition.

The prize is initiated and generously supported by Basil Sellers AM. Sellers, a retired businessman, philanthropist and art collector, divides his time between Europe and Australia (or wherever the Sydney Swans are playing that weekend). 'I believe that art reflects society', says Sellers, 'and since sport plays such a significant role in Australian society, I want to invite artists to unite their vision with our national passion for sport'.

Artists have demonstrated a real enthusiasm for sport, with a total of over 1,000 entries for the previous three prizes. Artworks have explored all aspects of sport, from sporting champions to weekend warriors, from major league competition to backyard cricket. Artists are interested in sport itself and the culture and rituals that surround it—fans, family traditions, legends and controversies.

The Basil Sellers Art Prize is a long-term project, involving 5 awards from 2008 to 2016 staged at the Ian Potter Museum of Art, the University of Melbourne.



**Image:**

2012 winner Jon Campbell with *Dream team*, 2012

enamel paint on plywood

22 paintings, installation (variable): 300 x 300 cm

Courtesy the artist, Kalimanrawlins, Melbourne; and Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney

Photo: Peter Casamento