



Abdul Abdullah, *The man* 2013, oil and synthetic polymer paint on canvas, 150 x 120 cm
© Courtesy the artist and Fehily Contemporary, Melbourne

The Ian Potter Museum of Art announces finalists for the \$100,000 Basil Sellers Art Prize 2016

Seventeen finalists (including two collaborative pairs) have been selected for the fifth Basil Sellers Art Prize, to be presented at the Ian Potter Museum of Art in July 2016.

The shortlisted artists are; Abdul Abdullah, Jane Brown, Kate Daw and Stewart Russell, Shaun Gladwell, Rew Hanks, Dana Harris, Grant Hobson, Richard Lewer, William Mackinnon, Laith McGregor, Fiona McMonagle, Eamon O'Toole, Trent Parke and Narelle Autio, David Ray, and Vipoo Srivilasa.

Over 240 artists submitted entries for the \$100,000 Basil Sellers Art Prize, one of Australia's richest and most prestigious art awards.

Director of the Ian Potter Museum of Art, Kelly Gellatly, said "We are delighted that the work of the seventeen finalists captures the ongoing interest in and commitment to conveying aspects of sport, sporting culture and sporting life in the very best of contemporary Australian art. The 2016 exhibition promises to be diverse and exciting, and we look forward to working with all of the shortlisted artists to present their unique, engaging, complex and surprising investigations of sport. It's going to be a great show."

The finalists have 10 months to complete their work before the judging panel decides who will be awarded the Basil Sellers Art Prize 2016.

Judges include Kelly Gellatly, Director, the Ian Potter Museum of Art; Christine Clark, Exhibition Manager, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra; Maurice O'Riordan, Director, Northern Centre for Contemporary Art, Darwin; Chris Langford, Former AFL footballer, current AFL Commissioner; and Dr Chris McAuliffe, representative of the Sellers Group and Professor of Art, ANU.

The prize of \$100,000 will be awarded to the winner, and an additional \$5000 Peoples' Choice award will be voted for by visitors to the exhibition.

The finalists will exhibit at the Ian Potter Museum of Art, the University of Melbourne from July to November 2016. The winner will be announced at the exhibition gala opening.

For further information please go to: <http://www.sellersartprize.com.au>

Background Information

The Basil Sellers Art Prize encourages artists to take on the theme of sport in any artistic medium and supports artists whose work explores Australia's obsession with sport.

The prize is supported by Basil Sellers AM, a businessman and philanthropist. Basil is a wellknown collector of art and a sports enthusiast who spends his time between Australia and Europe. More images available upon request.

For media information please contact: Margee Glover, The Ian Potter Museum of Art

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Hours: Tuesday to Friday 10am - 5pm: Saturday and Sunday 12 - 5pm, Admission free