

# The Ian Potter Museum of Art The University of Melbourne

## MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed until 30 April 2009

### On your marks!

Call for entries in \$100,000 sport and art tussle

Call for entries: 1 May, 2009

Exhibition: August 2010



Once again we can wince at the sight of chaffed thighs and recoil at the smell of Dencorub and burning rubber as entries are invited for the second \$100,000 Basil Sellers Art Prize.

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. 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 the murkier backwaters of sporting culture - perhaps luring art and sports supporters from their strongly held positions on opposite sides of the ring.

Director of the Ian Potter Museum of Art, Dr Chris McAuliffe, commented; 'Basil and I both share a passion for sport, but we are also aware that artists can bring a fresh and critical eye to contemporary life. So, whether "sport" is interpreted as two-up or tiddlywinks, or references are made more obliquely to obsession, or "win at all costs", we are encouraging artists to ask pointed questions and to explore the murkier backwaters of sporting culture. With this in mind, I say "let the games begin!"

The prize has been initiated and generously underwritten by Basil Seller AM. Basil, a business man 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 commented, '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.'

Entries are invited from Australian contemporary artists, with a distinguished judging panel announcing a shortlist of artists in September 2009. The judging panel includes Amy Barrett-Lennard, Director, Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, Julie Ewington, Curatorial Manager, Australian Art, Queensland Art Gallery, Layne Beachley, best female professional surfer in history and seven times world champion, Chris McAuliffe, Director of the Ian Potter Museum of Art, and Basil Sellers AM.

The Basil Sellers Art Prize is a long-term project aimed at changing Australians' perception and enjoyment of art and sport.

Entries are invited from Australian contemporary artists, with a distinguished judging panel announcing a shortlist of artists in September 2009. These artists will be invited to submit work for the \$100,000 Basil Sellers Art Prize and exhibition, opening at the Ian Potter Museum of Art, University of Melbourne, in August 2010. The prize is acquisitive. Further information and entry forms can be obtained from the website.

Shortlisted artists for the inaugural 2008 prize included: James Angus, Jon Cattapan, Daniel Crooks, Kate Daw and Stewart Russell, Ivan Durrant, Shaun Gladwell, Mark Hilton, David Jolly, Josie Kunoth Petyarre and Dinni Kunoth Kemarre, Richard Lewer, Selina Ou, Scott Redford, Elvis Richardson and Anne Zahalka.

## **Key Dates:**

**Call for entries close 5pm, Friday 24 July 2009**  
**Shortlisted artists announced September 2009**  
**Exhibition runs August – November 2010**

Further information can be obtained from the website: [www.sellersartprize.com.au](http://www.sellersartprize.com.au)

## **FOR FURTHER MEDIA INFORMATION**

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### **Caption:**

**Daniel Crooks**  
**Study for 'Static no. 11 (man running)' 2008**  
production still  
two-channel HD digital video with sound  
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