

Media Release

Portia Geach Memorial Award finalists revealed

Perpetual announces 2014 shortlist for Australia's most recognised portrait prize for women

16 October 2014

A list of 49 finalists has been announced today for the country's most revered portrait prize for female artists, the Portia Geach Memorial Award.

The \$30,000 annual prize is administered by trustee The Trust Company, part of Perpetual.

Established in 1961 by Florence Kate Geach, in memory of her sister, artist Portia Geach, the Portia Geach Memorial Award recognises an Australian female artist for the best portrait painted from life of a man or woman distinguished in art, letters or the sciences.

Perpetual General Manager of Philanthropy Andrew Thomas said more than 300 entries were received for the annual prize this year – the highest number of entries in the past five years.

"The strong number of entries this year is evidence of the excellent artwork being produced by female artists across Australia," Mr Thomas said.

"Privately funded awards such as the Portia Geach Memorial Award are essential to recognising and supporting the talent of Australian female artists. As trustee of the award, we are proud to be part of such an important contribution to the arts community."

The judging panel for this year's award comprised of: Director S.H Ervin Gallery, Jane Watters; Artist and Trustee of Art Gallery of New South Wales Ben Quilty; and Trustee of Art Gallery of New South Wales, Samantha Meers.

Commenting on the shortlist, the judging panel said: "Painting is alive and well amongst the new generation of female artists in Australia and this list of finalists reads like a who's who of the future of Art in this country."

"This show brings to light a community of very talented young painters working with and about each other. Through their descriptions of that community, the future of contemporary painting in Australia is very exciting."

Some of the well-known sitters for this year's award include politician Penny Wong and fashion designer Alannah Hill.

To view a list of this year's finalists, please visit www.thetrustcompany.com.au/portiageach

The winner of the 2014 Portia Geach Memorial Award will be revealed on 6 November, with an exhibition of all finalists' works to be open for public viewing at the S.H. Ervin Gallery, The Rocks from 7 November to 14 December.

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Note to editors**About the Portia Geach Memorial Award**

The Portia Geach Memorial Award was established by Florence Kate Geach in memory of her sister, artist Portia Geach, who spent much of her life campaigning for the rights of women in Australia and was determined to make a living from painting. Geach was widely acclaimed as a leading artist and was a frequent commentator in the national media – making her an iconic figure in the Australian arts community.

The Portia Geach Memorial Award is awarded by The Trust Company, part of Perpetual as Trustee, to the entry with the highest artistic merit.

About Perpetual Philanthropic Services

Perpetual is one of Australia's largest managers and distributors of philanthropic funds with \$2.1 billion in funds under advice (as at 30 June 2014). Perpetual is trustee for more than 990 [charitable trusts and endowments](#) and provides individuals and families with advice on establishing charitable foundations and structured giving programs. Perpetual also assists charities and not-for-profit organisations with [investment advice and management](#).

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