

MEDIA RELEASE



5 September 2011

Mandorla Art Award ramps up for 2012

The 2012 Mandorla Art Award's winning combination of a powerful theme, increased prize monies and a strong judging panel is set to attract entries from the cream of established Australian visual artists, as well as emerging artists for the youth award.

The theme for 2012, 'born of a woman' taken from St Paul's letter to the Galatians 4:4, opens up a myriad of possibilities for contemporary artists as it has done for many previous artists over almost 2,000 years. It allows contemplation of the nature of God, the nature of the human person, and the unique relationship between God and Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Prize money for the main award's overall winning entry has increased from \$20,000 to \$25,000, the two highly commended awards have risen from \$2,000 to \$5,000 each; while the People's Choice and youth award's generous, respective purses of \$2,000 and \$5,000 are unchanged. Both the main award's overall winning artwork and the youth award's winning artwork are acquisitory.

The judges are confirmed as Dr Rod Pattenden, Chair of the Blake Prize for Religious Art, artist, art historian, author and educational facilitator; Dr Rachael Kohn, ABC broadcaster, academic, author, international radio award winner and Doctor of Letters of the University of New South Wales, and Dr Annette Pedersen, art historian, curator, artist, educator and Honorary Research Fellow in the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts at UWA.

The Mandorla Committee's chair, Dr Angela McCarthy, confirmed that continued support of principal sponsor, St John of God Health Care, had allowed the Mandorla to build on the success of the 2010 award.

"We've been able to focus on the award's structure, including recruiting an eminent judging panel and the many other aspects necessary to mount a successful national art award. We are confident of attracting a very strong field of entries."

Also new for 2012 is a refreshed identity created as a modern interpretation of the award's namesake, the ancient and revered religious symbol the Mandorla; a new comprehensively designed website featuring the latest news, enhanced graphics and information about current and past awards; and a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/mandorlaartaward).

The Mandorla Award employs a thematic spiritual inspiration that changes with each exhibition. These inspirations are defined by quotations from the Bible and all participating artists are requested to interpret these in their own way.

Submissions for Mandorla 2012 must clearly demonstrate a direct relationship to the Biblical theme.

Entries for the 2012 awards close at 18:00 WST, Friday 1 June 2012, with the winners to be announced on Friday 10 August. More information, including application forms, is available at www.mandorlaart.com.

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Notes for Editors

About the Mandorla Art Award

The Mandorla Art Award for contemporary religious art is Australia's most significant thematic religious art prize, attracting some of the country's finest artists since its 1985 inception. For more information, visit www.mandorlaart.com.au

About St John of God Health Care

St John of God Health Care is a leading not for profit Catholic health care group, employing 9,300 caregivers across 13 hospitals, pathology, home nursing and Social Outreach and Advocacy services in Australia, New Zealand and the Asia Pacific. For more information, visit www.sjog.org.au