



03 October - 09 November 2008

Now in its 44th year the **Portia Geach Memorial Award**, at \$18,000, is the richest art prize solely for women in Australia. It was established in 1961 by Florence Kate Geach to commemorate her sister Portia's (1873-1959) achievements. In similar fashion to the Archibald Prize, the awarded is given on an annual basis to the "best portraits painted from life of some man or woman distinguished in Art, Letters or Science by any female artist resident in Australia". It has become a reminder of the importance of women's art practice in the Australian art scene, throughout history, and pays homage to the artist and activist Portia Stranston Geach.

The 2008 Portia Geach Memorial Award attracted submissions of 294 works of which 56 have been selected for exhibition. Judges for the 2008 Award are Barry Pearce, Head, Australian Paintings AGNSW, Aida Tomescu, award winning artist and Jane Watters, S.H. Ervin Gallery Director. Commenting on this year's entries, the judges were particularly impressed by the freshness and the diversity of approach to the challenge of portrait painting displayed by the artists. The judges believed they were amongst some of the best they have judged over the last decade.

The Portia Geach Memorial Award was first given in 1965 to Jean Appleton for her work, *Self Portrait*. The award continues to play a major role in developing the profiles of many of Australia's female artists. Past winners include Kim Spooner, Nancy Borlase, Mary Moore, Maria Cruz, Wendy Sharpe, Jenny Sages, Nerissa Lea, Jude Rae, Lucy Culliton and 2007 Winner, Maryanne Coutts.



Selected finalists announced	29 September 2008
Media announcement, winner	02 October 2008
Public viewing	03 October - 09 November 2008

PUBLIC PROGRAM of artists' talks Sundays at 3pm*



S.H. Ervin Gallery supported by *Tamburlaine*
growing organically

The trustee is Trust Company of Australia. The Portia Geach Memorial Award is administered by Cauz Group Pty Ltd.

The exhibition is hosted by the National Trust S.H. Ervin Gallery

MEDIA INFORMATION & INTERVIEWS:

S.H. Ervin Gallery: Leah Haynes Tel: 02 9258 0150 lhaynes@nsw.nationaltrust.org.au
Award administrator: Petrea Salter Tel: 02 9144 2415 psalter@cauzgroup.com.au

S.H.ERVIN GALLERY
Gallery Hours:
Admission:

National Trust Centre, Watson Road, Observatory Hill, Sydney
Tuesday – Sunday: 11.00 am– 5.00 pm (Closed Mondays & Public Holidays)
\$6, \$4 national trust members, seniors & concessions
Group bookings & school tours available. Bookings *essential*.

Education Officer:
Public Program:

PH: 9258 0122 (Tuesday – Friday)
Series of Guest Talks, including exhibiting artists, Sundays at 3pm
(*subject to availability and may change without notice)

Gallery Front Desk:
General information:
Trust Café

PH: 02 9258 0173
www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au
PH: 9258 0175 Bookings advised.