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# ZHONG CHEN wins Holding Redlich People's Choice Award **2009 SALON DE REFUSES**

Congratulations to **ZHONG CHEN**, winner of the **HOLDING REDLICH PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD** at the **2009 SALON DES REFUSES** - National Trust S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney. Thousands of visitors to the annual *Salon des Refusés* exhibition (the alternative Archibald and Wynne Prize selection) have voted for ZHONG CHEN's portrait of esteemed artist, **CHARLES BLACKMAN**, as their favourite artwork.

**Holding Redlich**, principal sponsor of the *Salon des Refusés* exhibition for the past 11 years, generously provided the winning artist with a \$2,000 cash prize. **Ian Robertson, Managing Partner, Holding Redlich** made the announcement on Thursday 1 May, at a special function at S.H. Ervin Gallery. Zhong Chen travelled from his home in Melbourne to accept the prize.

Says Zhong, *"reflecting on issues of cultural belonging and trans-cultural identity, I decided to paint Charles Blackman as I have always been interested in his 'Alice in Wonderland' series of works. I feel they are an important part of Australian art history and his paintings reflect a part of Australian culture. When I came to Australia 20 years ago these artworks were paintings I studied as a student. It was great to meet Charles and have him sit for me at his home. He has a great passion for art and continues to draw."*

Zhong Chen arrived in Australia in 1989 from China, graduating from the University of South Australia in 1996. Zhong was awarded a Samstag Scholarship to complete a Master of Fine Arts at the Chelsea College of Arts in London in 1998. Zhong has exhibited throughout Australia and has been awarded two Australia Council grants for residencies in New York in 2001 & 2006. Zhong has exhibited internationally in New York, China, Singapore and Hong Kong. Zhong Chen was awarded the SBS Federation Art Award and is represented in many collections including The Art Gallery of South Australia, BHP and Macquarie University. Zhong has been a finalist in the Wynne Prize (AGNSW) 2006, 2007 & 2008, Sulman Prize (AGNSW), 2008 and was a finalist for the 2007 & 2008 Archibald Prize (AGNSW). This is his first selection for the *Salon des Refusés*. Zhong Chen is represented in Australia by Eva Breuer Gallery, Sydney; Metro Gallery, Melbourne; Greenhill Galleries, Perth and Hill-Smith Gallery in Adelaide.

The National Trust S.H. Ervin Gallery initiated the *Salon des Refusés* in 1992, in response to the overwhelming number of entries submitted to the annual Archibald & Wynne Prizes (AGNSW), yet never seen by the public. This year our guest selectors viewed over 1400 artworks to decide the 44 currently on show until Sunday 03 May. *Salon des Refusés*, now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year, continues to be one of Sydney's most popular annual art exhibitions, presenting a informed selection of contemporary approaches in portraiture and landscape art.

**2009 SALON DES REFUSÉS** - exhibition until Sunday 03 May  
**PUBLIC PROGRAM** - Sunday 03 May, 3pm, final day of *Salon* exhibition  
**KERRY McINNIS** discusses her portrait of artist, Euan Macleod

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Tuesday - Sunday 11am - 5pm. \$6 / \$4  
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Image: ZHONG CHEN, *Charles Blackman*, oil on linen, 230 x 190 cm Winner, Holding Redlich People's Choice, 2009 Salon des Refusés, S.H. Ervin Gallery