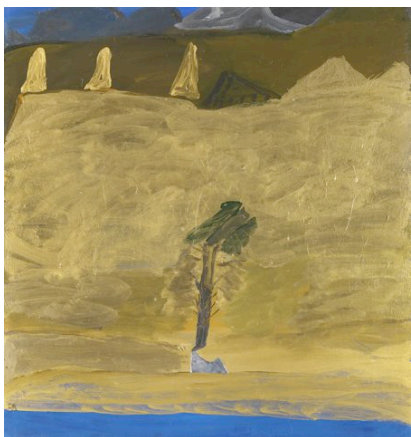


ANZAC GRANDSON IDRIS MURPHY WINS THE 2014 GALLIPOLI ART PRIZE



Gallipoli Evening 2013 by Idris Murphy
(2014 winner)

Sydney landscape painter **Idris Murphy** (pronounced Eye-dris) has won the \$20 000 **2014 Gallipoli Art Prize** with his painting 'Gallipoli Evening 2013' depicting a lone tree in a golden landscape, inspired by his recent visit to Gallipoli. Murphy only recently discovered over 160 letters written by his grandfather Charles Idris Pike from the battlefields of Gallipoli and the Western Front to his sweetheart Violet (who later became Charles' wife).

Judges also commended Glen Preece for 'Soldier – Flight to Heaven' and Hugh Ramage for a painting of his friend titled 'R.E. as a Digger'. The three paintings are amongst 37 finalist works that will be on display at the Gallipoli Memorial Club in Sydney from 23 April to 4 May.

Now in its 9th year, the annual **Gallipoli Art Prize** is awarded to the work that best expresses the Gallipoli Club's 'creed' - "We believe that within the community there exists an obligation for all to preserve the special qualities of loyalty, respect, love of country, courage and comradeship which were personified by the heroes of the Gallipoli Campaign and bequeathed to all humanity as a foundation of perpetual peace and universal freedom." Australian, New Zealand and Turkish artists are invited to interpret the creed as it relates to any armed conflict in which Australia has been involved.

Idris Murphy said his winning work was painted after spending some time in and around Gallipoli in May 2013. "I had been prepared for a certain degree of what might be called melancholy, however I was not expecting or prepared for this place of legends, to also be beautiful. This work, painted back in my studio is a response to that irony. 'Evening' is both a sense of actual time and a metaphor for that experience of the place."

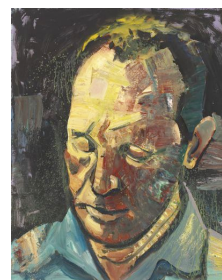
Idris Murphy (b.1949) from Caringbah in Sydney is a well-known landscape painter who has been exhibiting for more than 30 years. His grandfather, Charles Idris Pike, enlisted at age nineteen and served 1000 days of active service through some of the worst action of WW1 from 1914 to 1918. His recently discovered letters written from the battlefields provide an extraordinary and moving insight into a soldier's life including the exchange of gifts across the trenches between Turkish soldiers and the Anzacs. Artist Idris Murphy will return to Gallipoli in April this year with a group of eminent Australian landscape painters (many of whom have also submitted paintings to the Gallipoli Art prize over the years) for a painting expedition and Gallipoli centenary project entitled 'Your Friend the Enemy'. Idris Murphy is represented by King St Gallery on William, Sydney where he has a current exhibition 'Landscapes inscapes'.

"It's appropriate, with the centenary looming, that this year's Prize has been awarded to an artwork based on the first-hand experience of the battlefields of Gallipoli," said one of the judges, critic and writer John McDonald. "The theme of the Gallipoli Art Prize also extends beyond the theatre of war to embrace those qualities we like to think of as somehow defining 'Australian character'. The Gallipoli campaign played a big part in establishing these values. It's up to the rest of us to ensure they do not degenerate into myths... If the Gallipoli Art Prize has a broader purpose it is to make us reflect deeply on our common humanity and hold fast to those beliefs that show national identity in the best possible light."

One of the abiding aims of The Gallipoli Art Prize is to put together a collection of works to commemorate the heroes of the Gallipoli campaign and all those who have served and fought during the following century. This spirit extends to the Turkish soldiers who were the Anzacs' opponents in 1915. The club sponsors a parallel version of the art prize every year in Turkey, honouring the ties of friendship that now unite former adversaries.

An exhibition of the 2014 Gallipoli Art Prize finalists will be open 10am-5pm Wednesday, 23 April – Sun 4 May, 2014 (except for Anzac Day & 30 April) at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12 Loftus St, Circular Quay SYDNEY. More info at www.gallipoli.com.au

Gallipoli Art Prize winners: 2013 Peter Wegner | 2012 Geoff Harvey | 2011 Hadyn Wilson | 2010 Raymond Arnold | 2009 Euan Macleod | 2008 Tom Carment | 2007 Lianne Gough | 2006 Margaret Hadfield



R.E as a Digger by
Hugh Ramage
(commended)



Soldier – Flight to Heaven by
Glenn Preece (commended)

Transcript of letter from Charles Idris Pike (grandfather of winning artist Idris Murphy):

C.Pike
Gallipoli
Sept 18-15

My Dearest Violet.

I received your welcome letters by today's mail and was very pleased hear you received my letters quite safely from Egypt, as I used to write regularly every week.

We had some fun in the trenches this morning, as you know only a few yards separates us from the Turks, so we threw some tinned beef and jam over to them, they soon raked them in to their trenches, and in return they threw tobacco and cigarette papers. A couple of the parcels had notes in them written in French, one ran something to this effect. Our Friends the Enemy. We received your preserved meat, and send in return tobacco-- would be pleased if you could send souvenir, and we will do the same, could you spare a good knife we would be pleased. Your soldier Friends Turks. We threw them a knife and got some more tobacco and papers.

We finished up with a message saying that we were going to end the armistice in a quarter of an hour by throwing a bomb and after that it was on as usual. By the way they write you can see they have a great respect for us.

Well about yourself, you say you have your old complaint coming on again. That is no good you must look after yourself more. I would have liked to have been with you and the picnic, I bet you did enjoy yourself alright. I had a letter from the club last week and they sent best wishes, also saying they would be pleased if we were back with them again as they have had some enjoyable times lately. Must leave now as two pages is the limit. Kindest regards to all at home.

Au Revoir Forever yours . Charlie.



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