



**Unveiling of Commemorative Sculptures
and
Gallipoli and Canakkale Art Prize 10 Year Exhibition
by
His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd),
Governor of New South Wales**

August 6, 7pm Gallipoli Memorial Club

The Gallipoli Memorial Club is delighted to announce the upcoming opening of the 10 year Exhibition of the winning entries of the Gallipoli and Canakkale (Turkey) Art Prize, the culmination of the competition marking the centenary of the 1915 Anzac campaign in Gallipoli. This extensive exhibition will consist of the ten winning entries from Australia and Turkey acquired by the Gallipoli Memorial Club over the decade long competition and will commence in Sydney in August at the anniversary of Lone Pine.

In addition, The Governor of New South Wales, will unveil the commission of a series of sculptures in this considerable exhibition. These life size bronze busts of the 9 Australian soldiers and 1 New Zealand soldier awarded the Victoria Cross during the Gallipoli campaign of 1915 were created by Kris-Ann Ehrich after an extensive selection process from 15 artists and judging by Denise Mimmocchi, Curator of Australian Art from the Art Gallery of NSW.

“The sculptures I have created had to have a meaning and a depth with which others could easily empathise. They had to have life. I strove to bring them to life by imbuing them with every available characteristic and expression I could discern from their photographs and the biographical details that were available—to say nothing of their remarkable acts of heroism. I hope that those properties are embodied in the finished bronzes and that each of them will have meaning to those who view them. My starting place was to explore the special spiritual relationship every Australian shares with Gallipoli, and from that to endeavour to foster a far more personal relationship with each of the ten than I initially thought possible. As the project progressed, I felt increasingly close to these ten young men as I learnt more of their stories. Some of them were mere boys, and I had them ranked together in my studio more like a gathering of friends than lifeless works of sculpture” **Kris-Ann Ehrich, Commemorative Sculpture Artist**

Gallipoli and Canakkale Art Prize History and Future

The annual acquisitive Gallipoli Art Prize and Canakkale Art Prize commenced in 2006 and has gained recognition as one of Australia's and Turkey's major art prizes attracting entries from celebrated professional and amateur artists alike. Winners of the \$20 000 prize include landscape painter Idris Murphy whose grandfather served at Gallipoli (*Lone Pine* 2014), celebrated painter Tom Carment with a portrait of his father who was a WWII prisoner of war (*Max Carment, War Veteran -The last portrait* 2008)", Peter

Wegner with his confronting painting *Dog with Gas Mask* 2012 and New Zealand artist Euan Mcleod (*Smoke/PinkLandscape/Shovel* 2009). Turkish winners include Suleyman Ozderin (Commerate 100 Years) 2015, Gamze Soykan (two flags One Heart) 2014 and Samet Dogan (Remaining) 2013. Every year the paintings submitted to the prize tell personal and often emotional stories about the legacy of war and the people involved, making it a unique art competition.

Painters were asked to submit paintings that respond to the Gallipoli Memorial 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 for perpetual peace and universal freedom*".

It has been decided that due to the popularity of the Gallipoli Art Prize and the support over the years from many of the artists that the Gallipoli Memorial Club will continue with the competition in Australia. Further participation in the Turkish Art Prize will be in collaboration with the Turkish Australian & New Zealand Friendship and Promotion Association, Ankara.

"*The theme of the Prize 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*" Gallipoli Art Prize judge and SMH Arts Critic John McDonald.

The exhibition will be on public display at The Gallipoli Memorial Club in Sydney from the 7th of August, Wednesday to Friday from 11.30am to 5pm until the 30th of August at 12-14 Loftus Street, Circular Quay, Sydney. For more details visit www.gallipoli.com.au

Gallipoli Art Prize Winners:

- 2006 Margaret Hadfield (ACT) *Ataturk's legacy*
- 2007 Lianne Gough (VIC) *Glorus fallen*
- 2008 Tom Carment (NSW) *Max Carment, War Veteran (the last Portrait)*
- 2009 Euan Macleod (NZ) *Smoke/Pink landscape/Shovel*
- 2010 Raymond Arnold (TAS) *The dead march here today*
- 2011 Hadyn Wilson (NSW) *Sacrifice*
- 2012 Geoff Harvey (NSW) *Trench interment*
- 2013 Peter Wegner (VIC) *Dog with Gas Mask*
- 2014 Idris Murphy (NSW) *Gallipoli Evening 2013*
- 2015 Sally Robinson (NSW) *Boy Soldiers*

Canakkale Art Prize, Turkey

- 2006 *Untitled* Hakan Yeles
- 2007 *Untitled* Cigdem Yilmaz
- 2008 *Grandchildren of the Heroes* Asuman Tuncay
- 2009 *Another Day Started* Semral Saglam
- 2010 *Without Interpretation* Nergis Zengin
- 2011 *The Letters* Sema Sevgen
- 2012 *Despite everything* Bulent Ufuk Camlibel
- 2013 *Remaining* Samet Dogan
- 2014 *Two flags one heart* Gamze Soykan
- 2015 *"Commemorate"100 Years* Suleyman Ozderin

High Resolution Images are available via the Dropbox [link](#)

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Kris-Ann Ehrich Biography – Commemorative Sculpture Artist

Kris-Ann Ehrich was born in north Queensland and now lives in Brisbane. Her journey as a sculptor began following a career in fashion and interior design, leaning on a passion for art formed in childhood.

In her sculpture she explores the limitless possibilities of the tactile third dimension embodied in this 'living' art form. Her creative journey traverses a landscape richly populated with figures drawn from the traditions of myth, magic and the intertwining realms of heaven, earth and the darker elements of the supernatural that inhabit and cloud the human heart. All are ciphers for the counterpoints of triumph and tragedy, beauty and vulnerability that define experience. She says of her work, 'These qualities inspire an unending quest to capture the vulnerability and fragility that underlie the riddle of our human paradox.'

Her studies began in 2004 under the tutelage of Brisbane sculptor Georgette Schwantes. Initially working in ceramic, she began casting in bronze in 2006—an exciting, challenging medium that has added richness, breadth, and expression to her oeuvre.

She honed her skills on classical themes and form, before moving into the more exacting sphere of figurative themes, sharpened with a keener socio-political edge. She's exhibited extensively throughout Queensland and her sculptures have also been displayed to acclaim elsewhere in Australia, including Canberra. Her work has been selected for inclusion in Contemporary Masters Volume VII and Important Artists of the World Volume 1.