



Gallipoli Memorial Club
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MEDIA RELEASE: **STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 1PM AEST WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL, 2019**

MARTIN KING WINS THE 2019 GALLIPOLI ART PRIZE WITH HIS WORK 'WAR PIGEON DIARIES'



Gallipoli Art Prize 2019 Winner: Martin King 'War Pigeon Diaries'

Melbourne artist Martin King has won the **2019 Gallipoli Art Prize** (\$20 000 acquisitive prize funded by the Gallipoli Memorial Club) with his mixed media work '**War Pigeon Diaries**' consisting of seven open notebooks containing beautifully intricate prints of carrier pigeons that were used during WWI and WWII to carry vital messages behind enemy lines and for aerial surveillance. Martin King's winning work along with [thirty-four finalist works](#) will be on public display from 18 April – 27 April, 2019 at the

Harbour View Hotel, 18 Lower Fort St, Dawes Point (The Rocks) Sydney whilst the Gallipoli Memorial Club in Circular Quay undergoes redevelopment.

In his accompanying artist statement Martin King said “My work refers to the resourcefulness and spirit of army personnel who with great affection and care, worked with homing pigeons. The birds were never considered expendable. They were considered integral to the war effort and were treated as heroes in many cases.

Camaraderie was not only between war personnel but extended to the many animals including the beloved pigeons, that were employed in the service of war. My research led me to discover that pigeons were trialled for aerial reconnaissance and were parachuted behind enemy lines and onto battlefields and used extensively for intelligence and communications.

I chose to present the work as a series of diaries as they convey a sense of the intimate and the personal. Soldier’s personal accounts from the field, in the form of diaries and letters, have always been compelling reading. They can be an insight into the forgotten stories.”

Martin King is acknowledged widely as one of the leading printmakers in the country. He is also the senior printmaker at Australian Print Workshop, a position he has held since 1994. The Melbourne born artist has had over 50 solo exhibitions throughout Australia and has exhibited in many group exhibitions both in Australia and internationally. His work is held in major public and private collections including British Museum London, National Gallery of Australia, National Gallery of Victoria, Art Gallery of NSW and Parliament House, Canberra. He was the recipient of a 2017 Creative Fellowship from State Library of Victoria and has won numerous awards including People’s choice award, Adelaide Perry drawing Prize (2016), First Prize Gippsland Print Award (2015) and First Prize, Rio Tinto Alcan Martin Hanson Memorial Prize (2014). This is the first time Martin King has entered a work in the Gallipoli Art Prize.

John Robertson, one of the prize’s judges and Chairperson of the Gallipoli Art Prize Committee remarked on King’s winning work “The broad themes of mutual loyalty, respect and comradeship as outlined in the Gallipoli Club’s Creed not only need refer to human relationships. Animals have long played a vital role in times of conflict. Martin King’s beautifully intricate work depicts pigeons used for aerial surveillance and pigeons parachuted behind enemy lines. He included positive and negative prints and reproductions of actual photos taken by the pigeons. The judges were impressed by this innovative use of the medium and the subject matter.”

The judges also highly commended [‘Sunrise Service Richmond NSW’](#) by painter Michael Lodge whose father was a POW in Burma and [‘Under Cover of Darkness’](#) by Geoff Harvey who won the Gallipoli Art Prize in 2012 with his work ‘Trench Interment’. This year’s judging panel included Jane Watters (Director, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney), writer, editor and art critic John McDonald, Barry Pearce (former Head Curator of Australian Art, AGNSW) and John Robertson (President, Gallipoli

Memorial Club).

Now in its 14th year, The Gallipoli Art Prize invites artists to respond to the broad themes of loyalty, respect, love of country, courage and comradeship as expressed in the Gallipoli Club's creed. The works do not need to depict warfare, nor do they need to relate, directly or indirectly, to any conflict.

THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB 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".

This year's collection of finalist works comprise a broad range of imagery including a painting by 17 year old [Kate Gillgren](#) depicting a labrador used as a companion dog for soldiers suffering PTSD, a painting of naked soldiers bathing in the deceptively calm waters of ANZAC Cove by [Susan Sutton](#) and a mixed media work by [Cathie Cox](#) depicting a young soldier with a tree sprouting from his heart, inspired by a Henry Lawson poem. The works in the Gallipoli Art Prize reflect deeply upon the legacy of the Club and its creed across generations and Australia's involvement in armed conflict over the last century, making it a unique and important art competition.

PUBLIC EXHIBITION

2019 Gallipoli Art Prize

Public Exhibition 18 April – 26 April, 2019

Harbour View Hotel, 18 Lower Fort St, Dawes Point (The Rocks) Sydney

General enquiries: (02) 9389 5333

www.gallipoli.com.au

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2019 Gallipoli Art Prize

Winner: Martin King *War Pigeon Diaries*

Highly Commended: Michael Lodge *Sunrise Service Richmond NSW*

Highly Commended: Geoff Harvey *Under Cover of Darkness*

Alison Mackay	Bloom - for Country for Home
Belinda Bathgate	Awes Tintola
Bill Hope	Distant Inheritance
Cathie Cox	Hear the Grey Bush Calling
Craig Handley	Fear Portrait 1
David Hayes	Eternity
Emma Rebecca Liu	Warrior
Fu Yan	The Bagpiper- Moment of Anzac Day Memorial
Glen Preece	The End of War
John Colet Year 6	In Respect to Wykham
John Robertson	Lest We Forget
John Skillington	As We that are Left
Joseph Rolella	Three of Many

Katharine Leoh	War and Peace
Katie Gillgren	A home away from home
Kristin Hardiman	Same Place Different Time: Same Time Different Place
Lachlan Warner	Soldier
Lori Pensini	Boy
Lynne Mullane	Enjoying the Sunshine
Mark Middleton	Australian 10th Light Horse
Max Berry	Red Poppies
Meg O'Shannessy	All the Shadows Whisper of the Sun
Megan Seres	Untitled #119
Michelle Hiscock	Blood and Fire, Caterpillar Crater: In Memory of the Battle of Messines
Nameer Davis	External Forces
Noel Mckenna	Limbless soldiers Association Building
Nora Louise Hosking	M.V.Krait
Peter Smeeth	Don't Forget Us - Australian POWs Burma 1943
Rodney Pople	Welcome Home
Ross Townsend	Mehmetcik Monument
Susan Sutton	Bathing - Anzac Cove 1915
Yai-Chin Tsao	Remember Me

Gallipoli Art Prize Previous Winners

2006 Margaret Hadfield	<i>Ataturk's legacy</i>
2007 Lianne Gough	<i>Glorus fallen</i>
2008 Tom Carment	<i>Max Carment, War Veteran (the last Portrait)</i>
2009 Euan Macleod	<i>Smoke/Pink landscape/Shovel</i>
2010 Raymond Arnold	<i>The dead march here today</i>
2011 Hadyn Wilson	<i>Sacrifice</i>
2012 Geoff Harvey	<i>Trench interment</i>
2013 Peter Wegner	<i>Dog with Gas Mask</i>
2014 Idris Murphy	<i>Gallipoli Evening 2013</i>
2015 Sally Robinson	<i>Boy Soldiers</i>
2016 Jiawei Shen	<i>Yeah, Mate!</i>
2017 Amanda Penrose Hart	<i>The Sphinx, Perpetual Peace</i>
2018 Steve Lopes	<i>Exposed Wood, Mont St Quentin</i>

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MEDIA CONTACT

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MEDIA ASSETS

Click [here](#) for high res images including of Martin King, his winning work and the highly commended works.

Click [here](#) for all finalist works.