



**MEDIA RELEASE: STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 1PM WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL, 2025**

**ANDREW TOMKINS WINS 2025 GALLIPOLI ART PRIZE**



Gallipoli Art Prize 2025 Winner: ANDREW TOMKINS

*“HMAS Karangi”*

Ink, wax crayon & aerosol on polyester

121 x 231cm

Sydney artist Andrew Tomkins has won the **2025 Gallipoli Art Prize** (\$20 000 acquisitive prize auspiced by the Gallipoli Memorial Club) with his work “HMAS KARANGI”, a potent symbol for peace in our present turbulent times.

Launched in 1941 at Cockatoo Island, the HMAS Karangi, a Kangaroo Class boom defence vessel, was decommissioned in 1964, and sold for scrap in 1966. HMAS Karangi now lies in the waters of Homebush Bay. With passing of the years, it has been “rebirthed” as a haven for endangered mangroves, wetlands and wildlife thriving within and around its sunken hull.

This vessel worked the anti-submarine boom gates to Darwin Harbour during WWII, helping to defend Darwin during the Japanese bombing of 1942 and was awarded battle honours for engaging Japanese aircraft during this period. Post war the ship supported nuclear testing in the Montebello Islands off the West Australian coast.

Tomkins references the image of Banksy tanks firing love hearts or peace signs for inspiration for this work.

“In creating this artwork HMAS Karangi is a memorial to the personnel who sailed her. I have utilised her reality to create a graphic picture of a more peaceful world, in the same vein as Banksy’s peace paintings” Tomkins said.

“With the global turmoil that has been happening, I thought to try and tap into that sentiment and to present a statement that would represent a more peaceful world. For me the prize is about remembrance, it is about remembering the past. Peace can never be achieved without looking back. There is no future without the past”

Tomkins’ unique work is created with a technique he has developed over many years whereby he draws and then paints on to a translucent polyester sheet. He then hand cuts around the shapes with a scalpel and rather than discarding the ‘stencil’ like sheet, this forms a layer of the artwork. His methodology, or visual language, has evolved not only from the European and Chinese socialist woodcuts movement but also modern day street art specifically stencil art.

“The concept of negative space is one of the first things art students learn in class,” said Elizabeth Fortescue, one of the Gallipoli Art Prize judges. “They are taught what negative space is, and why it matters. To Andrew, negative spaces hold a fascination and even an obsession.”

Sydney based Andrew Tomkins is an acclaimed Australian artist who started painting at age 12 and has studied at the Julian Ashton School of Art. A licensed builder by trade, Andrew’s appreciation of the natural world and the environment combined with his passion for art has resulted in numerous art prizes including Winner of the inaugural Burwood Art Prize 2017. He has exhibited across Australia including Sydney Contemporary 2017-2019 and has also exhibited at Art Central Hong Kong 2018 and 2019. Tomkins was selected to exhibit at the Beijing International Biennale at the National Art Museum in Beijing in China in 2019 and his work is in the collection of the National Art Museum of China in Beijing. He is currently a full-time artist and is a judge for the Master Builders Association of NSW in the excellence in housing awards.

John Robertson, one of the judges said: “The judges have been impressed with Andrew’s work year on year. This is a spectacular painting reflecting his obsession with light and shadow and his attraction to Homebush Bay. We particularly liked that he chose to emphasise the last part of the creed *perpetual peace*.”

Tomkins has now won the Gallipoli Art Prize twice, having won initially in 2023 with his artwork “Rays Room”, a poignant work depicting his uncle’s room in his grandparent’s house. He has been a finalist in the Gallipoli Art Prize now five times, awarded Highly Commended by judges in 2021 for his work ‘The Guns Fell Silent’ recounting the story of his Scottish mother who was based on the anti-aircraft guns overlooking the English Channel on D Day, 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944.



Highly Commended: WAYNE DAVIS "Lighthorse Section"  
Oil on board 170 X 140cm

The 2025 Gallipoli Art Prize judges highly commended Wayne Davis for his vigorous work "Lighthorse Section". The painting shows the energy, trust and interdependence between the horses and riders of the Australian Light Horse Regiment in the Middle East during the First World War.

The Gallipoli Art Prize is a privately funded prize, sponsored by the Gallipoli Memorial Club in Sydney. It invites artists to respond openly to the broad themes of loyalty, respect, love of country, courage, comradeship, community, peace, and freedom as expressed in 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". The Gallipoli Memorial Club Creed.*

Judging for this year's Prize was conducted by Jane Watters, Barry Pearce, Elizabeth Fortescue, and John Robertson. Previous winners of the Gallipoli Art Prize include prominent artists Euan Macleod (2009), Idris Murphy (2014) and Jiawei Shen (2016). Stencil artist, Luke Cornish, won the 2024 Art Prize with his Aerosol/Acrylic on canvas work – "The Pity of War"

**Public exhibition:** The 2025 Gallipoli Art Prize will be on exhibition at 6-8 Atherden Street, The Rocks, Sydney from 17 April to 11 May, 2025. Free to the public

View all 2025 Gallipoli Art Prize finalist works at [www.gallipoliartprize.org.au](http://www.gallipoliartprize.org.au).

## 2025 Gallipoli Art Prize

**Winner:** ANDREW TOMKINS “HMAS Karangī”

**Highly Commended:** WAYNE DAVIS “Lighthouse Section”

## 2025 Gallipoli Art Prize Finalists

A.E Stubbs-Race	<i>LEFT</i>
Alex Jobbagy	<i>Sacrifice</i>
Amanda Gosse	<i>Veterans</i>
Andrew Tomkins	<i>HMAS Karangī</i>
Bevan Henderson	<i>Check Mates</i>
Bilge Yuceer Karakus	<i>Bullet Bird</i>
Kathy Ellem	<i>Horrie and his mates</i>
Chen Xin James Lin	<i>Veteran</i>
Claire Cusack	<i>Pop Martin - a life shaped by war, language, and resilience</i>
Craig Handley	<i>The Pond</i>
Geoff Harvey	<i>No Mans Land</i>
Henry Kerr	<i>Grandad</i>
James Stickland	<i>The Spirit Lives on</i>
John Robertson	<i>Bangka Island</i>
Jon Potter	<i>Unknown</i>
Julianne Ross Allcorn	<i>On the Edge</i>
Kristin Hardiman	<i>Through My Eyes</i>
Lori Pensini	<i>The Wait</i>
Margaret Hadfield	<i>#lest we forget @ Wimbie Beach</i>
Michael Brimmer	<i>Smiley</i>
Michelle Elena Zuccolo	<i>Duty and respect</i>
Naomi Hatt	<i>One Green Bottle</i>
Naomi Lawler	<i>The Artist's Father (Woff Stan Lawler )</i>
Peter Horst	<i>A Portrait Before Departure</i>
Peter Whitehead	<i>The First Leaves Fall (Diptych)</i>
Rick Crossland	<i>Digger</i>
Robert Hammill	<i>Daring Victory</i>
Robert Williams	<i>Symbol of War</i>
Ross Townsend	<i>Duty Calls</i>
Sue Macleod-Beere	<i>Saying Goodbye</i>
Todd Simpson	<i>The Trenches Took Her Too</i>
Wayne Davis	<i>Lighthouse Section</i>

### 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>
2019 Martin King	<i>War Pigeon Diaries</i>
2020 Alison Mackay	<i>Breathe</i>
2021 Geoff Harvey	<i>Forgotten Heroes</i>
2022 Deidre Bean	<i>Along the ride to Damascus</i>
2023 Andrew Tomkins	<i>Ray's Room</i>
2024 Luke Cornish	<i>The Pity of War</i>

(end)

**Media Contact:**

Jacqui Bonner Marketing & Management [jb@jacquibonnermarketing.com](mailto:jb@jacquibonnermarketing.com) M: 0411 473 198

**Media Assets**

**Winners high res image, biography and artist statement [HERE](#)**

Photos of all the 2025 Gallipoli Art Prize finalist works [HERE](#)

View all the works online at [HERE](#) (Click on individual works to read the accompanying artist statement)