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Finalist: **LORI PENSINI**
Lest We Forget
Oil on linen
33 x 30cm unframed

Finalists Announced for 2026 Gallipoli Art Prize

Winner to be announced Wednesday 15 April, 2026 in Sydney.

Thirty finalists have been announced for the 21th annual Gallipoli Art Prize. The winner of the art prize will be announced on Wednesday 15th April in Sydney, in the lead up to Anzac Day. The works will be on exhibition at 6-8 Atherden Street, The Rocks from 16 April to 10 May, 2026.

[View [2026 finalist works here](#) + [artist statements](#)]

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.

War graves desecration, family secrets unearthed to current conflicts in Gaza and recently in Afghanistan are just some of the subjects in this year's finalist's exhibition. Traditional playing of 2 up, swimming at the beach or playing cricket are also featured, signifying the need to bring normality in a world of chaos.

As finalist Henry Kerr mentions, "It's fascinating the way we cling to markers of normal life and levity in even the darkest of times. In an age of social media, we have an overwhelming abundance of imagery of people trying to survive while surrounded by war and ruin; finding pockets of humanity amidst chaos, whether it be a cricket match or a game of chess."

"I am always impressed by the diversity of the works and how individual artists choose to respond to the special qualities within the Gallipoli Memorial Club's Creed.

This year some artists have chosen unusual mediums varying from handmade plaster dishes, embroidered hand kerchiefs, pianola rolls and Ian Morton's piece which has a different image depending on the angle it is viewed from. Reference to the Gaza Conflict, Australian casualties in Afghanistan and the Bondi Massacre remind us of the reference within the Ode of the foundation of perpetual peace" said John Robertson, President of the Gallipoli Memorial Club and one of the judges of the prize.

Judging for this year's Prize was conducted by Jane Watters, 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"

The winner of the 2026 Gallipoli Art Prize will be announced on Wednesday 15 April, 2026 in Sydney. **Public exhibition:** The 2026 Gallipoli Art Prize will be on exhibition at 6-8 Atherden Street, The Rocks, Sydney from 16 April to 10 May, 2026

View all 2026 Gallipoli Art Prize finalist works at www.gallipoliartprize.org.au.

2026 Gallipoli Art Prize Finalists

Lori Pensini	<i>Lest We Forget</i>
David Whitfield	<i>Grandfather's things</i>
Pete Rush	<i>Out of the Ashes - 1919, HMAT Khyber Brings them Home</i>
Peter Whitehead	<i>Perennial Vigilance</i>
Kristin Hardiman	<i>Respite</i>
Robert Hammill	<i>Recruitment</i>
Yuanzhou Zheng	<i>The Vigil</i>
Penelope Oates	<i>The Lonesome Pine</i>
Geoff Harvey	<i>Shell Green Ruse</i>
Luke Cornish	<i>No Rest (The Vandalism of Deir Al Balah)</i>

Jane Stadermann	<i>41</i>
Ben Tankard	<i>Bookstore 22</i>
Stephen Smith	<i>On the Beach</i>
Andrew Tomkins	<i>Dawn Service, Martin Place</i>
Ian Reardon	<i>The Despatcher "Suvla Bay"</i>
Fangmin Wu	<i>Young Cadet</i>
Deirdre Bean	<i>Tich Carroll's Escape From Crete, 1941</i>
John Skillington	<i>The call</i>
Phillip Alexander Meatchem Margaret Hadfield (Zorgdrager)	<i>Come in Spinner My Fathers Secret</i>
Jonathon (Jon) Potter	<i>1917</i>
Henry Kerr	<i>Still Swinging</i>
Lachlan Drake	<i>Broken Promise</i>
Rosalind Friday	<i>Where Heroes Lie</i>
Kim Baldwin	<i>Threads of a Forgotten Yarn</i>
Ross Townsend	<i>Beaches of Liberation</i>
Eleni Karathanasi	<i>The Soldier of Kogarah Town Square</i>
Julianne Ross Allcorn	<i>Letters, Parcels and News from Home</i>
Ian A Morton	<i>Stand by Me</i>
Sophie Haythornthwaite	<i>Child ghost of lone pine (Lance Corporal John Auguste Harris)</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>
2025 Andrew Tomkins	<i>HMAS Karangi</i>

(end)

Media Contact:

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Winner Announcement:

(not open to the public) 1pm, Wednesday 15 April, 2026. 6-8 Atherden Street, The Rocks, Sydney.
Please contact Jacqui Bonner on 0411 473 198 or jb@jacquibonnermarketing.com if you would like to attend.

Media Assets

Photos of finalist works [HERE](#)

Artists Statements [HERE](#)

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