



*Viewing some of the works displayed at the 2016 Camberwell Art Show.*

## **Countdown for 52<sup>nd</sup> Camberwell Art Show**

The countdown to the 2017 Camberwell Art Show is reaching its final stages with the prestigious and popular show to begin with a gala opening on Friday 7 July. There will be more than 1,300 paintings on show and for sale from 500 of Australia's leading artists.

Now in its 52<sup>nd</sup> year, the event continues daily until Sunday 16 July, with Swinburne University of Technology's large Advanced Technology Building at 427 Burwood Road, Hawthorn, transformed into a state-of-the-art gallery to professionally showcase the artworks, which represent all painting genres.

Leading Melbourne law firm, Parke Lawyers, is the event's gold sponsor and Managing Director Jim Parke says each year the Camberwell Art Show reflects the ongoing evolution of Australian art and the 2017 staging will do the same.

"Each year the show's entry list mirrors changing trends in the arts scene. As new trends emerge and the tastes of art appreciators evolve, the artists of Australia adapt their styles and subjects. This gives every staging of the art show a fresh, new look.



“With \$35,000 in prizes, including a best in show of \$20,000, this prestigious event is one not to be missed by the art community. Its scale and quality of works on show, make it a most significant event on the Australian art calendar,” Mr Parke says.

Entries for the 2017 Camberwell Art Show came from 666 artists offering 2,334 paintings.

Art show committee chairman Mark Hassed says the size of the show is mind-boggling. “The selection panel of three judges spent two days critically appraising each work and chose the 1,300 works that will be displayed at the show.

“It is staggering to think that after 52 years, the show continues to grow in terms of entries received and attendances. We are hoping for up to 7000 visitors this year.”

He says there has been strong interest in the show as well as the gala opening. “Over wine and canapés from 6.30pm on 7 July, patrons have first choice of the art and will witness the announcement of the winning entries.

“Also conducted during the evening will be an auction of the three winning paintings and a silent auction for \$8,500 worth of items,” Mr Hassed says.

The Camberwell Art Show is the major annual fundraising event for the Rotary Club of Camberwell and since 1964, the community has been the beneficiary with more than \$2.3 million contributed to the many Rotary programs at local, national and international levels. All assistance is voluntary, which means funds raised through admission, sponsorship and commissions from painting sales are allocated to charitable causes.

Together with Parke Lawyers, other major sponsors are the Herald Sun, Bendigo Bank, Bayford Motors Group, Deans Art and Boroondara Arts Centre. Also supporting the show are Melbourne Smile Centre, Premier HiFi, Studio Craft, Without Pier Gallery, Le Pine Funerals, Duncan Thompson Extensions, Toscano’s and Surrey Travel.

Go to [www.camberwellartshow.org.au](http://www.camberwellartshow.org.au) for full details, including the demonstrating artists program, art awards and online bookings. Pre-bookings are essential for the gala opening on Friday 7 July while tickets for the show can be made online or are available at door.

***For more information about this release or for an interview contact:***

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