

MEDIA contact:

Mary Faith, Lisa Jones 02 9473 7878,  
gcsgallery@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au

## MEDIA RELEASE

# Grace Cossington Smith Art Award 2021 Winners Exhibition 28 January - 25 February 2023



We are delighted to open the 2023 Grace Cossington Smith Gallery program with an exhibition of works from the winners of the 2021 Grace Cossington Smith Art Award. The winners' exhibition provides greater depth and understanding of the broader practice of Nadia Hernández, Alice Wormald and David Collins.

The Judges:

The finalists and award winners were selected by guest judges: Katrina Cashman, Gallery Manager & Senior Curator at the National Art School; and Oliver Watts, Senior Curator of Artbank, Sydney and artist.

For the 2021 art award, exhibited in 2022, the Judges were impressed that this national biennial award attracts contemporary artists from various stages in their career. They noted a very high standard of entries and a great range of talent considering the tough-going, pandemic impacted circumstances for artists. The judges felt the submissions were a barometer of contemporary art practice revealing a broad brushstroke of two-dimensional media and styles, with some works challenging traditional notions of contemporary artmaking.

### **Nadia Hernández**

The Grace Cossington Smith  
ART AWARD (acquisitive)



### **Alice Wormald**

The Grace Cossington Smith  
EARLY CAREER ARTIST AWARD



### **David Collins**

The Grace Cossington Smith  
LOCAL ARTIST AWARD

Image credits:

Nadia Hernández: *Dulce de lechoza verde (procedimiento)/Green papaya sweet (procedure)*, 2021, cotton, linen, and corduroy on linen textile, 145 x 100cm, Courtesy the artist and STATION.

David Collins: *Hot Burn*, 2021, oil on Canvas, 122 X 200 cm (diptych). Courtesy the artist and Defiance Gallery.

Alice Wormald: *Turning in Circles*, 2020, oil on linen, 140 x 110cm. Courtesy the artist and Gallery 9.

The Grace Cossington Smith Gallery is a not-for-profit gallery, run by Abbotsleigh, serving the public through free admission and a changing exhibition program.

### **Nadia Hernández Winner GCS art award**

Judges Comments: *Dulce de lechoza verde (procedimiento)/Green papaya sweet (procedure)*, is a beautiful textile work that harks back to the artist's heritage, considering ideas of diaspora and food connecting culture and family. It is full of life, tenderness and is a very loving work that represents the connections we all need now.

#### **About Nadia Hernández**

Nadia Hernández was born in Mérida, Venezuela, and is currently based between Sydney and Melbourne, Australia. Her visual arts practice is informed specifically by the current political climate of her home country and her diasporic experience as a Venezuelan woman living abroad. Articulated through textiles, paper constructions, painting, music, installations, sculptures and murals, her identity allows her, or perhaps encourages her, to create work that negotiates complex political narratives through the personal, the institutional and their intersections.

Hernández holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Queensland University of Technology, was a finalist in the inaugural Ellen José Art Awards (2022) and has been a Create NSW Visual Arts Emerging Fellow (2020). She was commissioned to develop an immersive educational program and exhibition as Shepparton Art Museum's EduLAB artist (2020) and was a recipient of the Bundanon Trust Artist in Residence (2019). Hernández was the winner of the 2019 Churchie National Emerging Art Prize, one of Australia's leading prizes for emerging artists. Her work has featured in a number of group and solo exhibitions, including the Macfarlane Commissions exhibition at the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art in 2022.

### **David Collins Winner Local artist award**

Judges Comments: *Hot Burn* is an evocative well observed landscape capturing a strong connection to place. Collins poetically responds to the land through colour, and beautiful glazes provide a sense of depth, heat and refracted light. Also revealed are suggestions of the devastating fires we so recently experienced.

#### **About David Collins**

Since completing his art education at Hornsby TAFE and The Canberra School of Art in the late '70's and early '80's, David Collins has travelled extensively within Australia and overseas to pursue his career as a landscape painter.

In 1987, he moved to Dangar Island and since that time the Hawkesbury River environment has been a major influence on his work.

Collins has held 19 solo exhibitions of paintings and drawings and participated in numerous group exhibitions. He has worked in The Kimberley, The Pilbara, Central Australia and France, with residencies in China, Queensland, New Zealand and, most recently, The Monaro and Hunter Regions of NSW. In 2021, David was awarded the Local Artist Award in The Grace Cossington Smith Art Award. In 2013 he received a high commendation in the Wynne Prize for landscape painting and in 2011, The Painting Prize in The Hornsby Art Prize. David Collins is represented by Defiance Gallery.

"My work is about relationships. My observations and feelings towards the environment around me and the myriad, constantly shifting relationships, colour, mark, tone, etc, that slowly evolve on the canvas or sheet of paper."

### **Alice Wormald Winner early career artist award**

Judges Comments: *Turning in Circles* is a contemporary painting that revels in artifice, with the artist playing with, and remaking, of found images. It is a work full of contrasts – inside/outside, natural/artificial and a variety of very interesting viewpoints.

#### **About Alice Wormald**

Alice Wormald creates paintings depicting strange, constructed spaces where surface and depth, representation and abstraction and naturalism and artifice converge. The works often emerge through the process of image collection and collage. She exercises a controlled sense of representation, grounded in concerns around the act of painting and the physicality of paint itself, while reflecting a hallucinatory experience of space and nature.

Wormald has held numerous solo exhibitions in Melbourne and Sydney and has exhibited in art fairs, ARIs and public galleries since graduating from the Victorian College of the Arts in 2011. She has been a finalist in many prizes including Geelong Contemporary Art Prize, John Leslie Prize, Sunshine Coast Art Prize, Bayside Acquisitive Art Prize and Albany Art Prize. Her work is held in numerous collections including Artbank, Macquarie Group Collection, Australian Catholic University, Horsham Regional Art Gallery, Darebin City Council, Gippsland Art Gallery, Joyce Nissan Collection, Fiona Myer Collection and Private collections.


"I make paintings which develop alongside a process of image collection and collage. Using pictures from books, magazines and my own photographs, the works are conversations with and within the painted surface. They embody the idea of painting as a puzzle, each piece interacting by an unseen logic and overlapping and intersecting to create its own distinct rhythm."

Gallery opening times:

Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 5pm

Social Media:

 <https://www.facebook.com/gcsgallery>

 @gcsgalley