



Grace Cossington Smith art award 2016

National art award supporting
contemporary Australian artists

Media Release, 5 November 2016



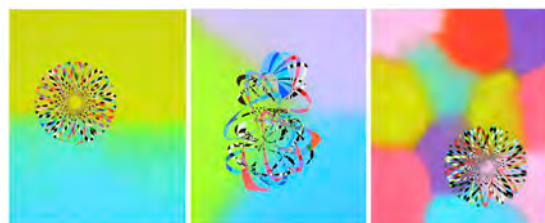
Grace Cossington Smith art award announces 2016 winner

Wahroonga, Sydney:

Today the judges, Rhonda Davis and Dr Andrew Frost, with gallery Director Mary Faith, announced their unanimous selection of Mark Titmarsh as the recipient of the \$15,000 prize for the third Grace Cossington Smith art award.

Abbotsleigh is proud to sponsor this annual exhibition. The acquisitive art award contributes to the development of an art collection that will provide an outstanding cultural attraction and learning resource for Abbotsleigh, the gallery and the North Shore community.

Artists are invited to submit original, two dimensional artworks reflecting the theme of *Making Connections*. This theme is inspired by the works of Abbotsleigh alumna Grace Cossington Smith, a pioneer of modernist painting in Australia who created brilliantly coloured observations of the world around her.



Each finalist will receive \$1,000. The other finalists are Nick Collerson, David Collins, Ben Denham, Shoufay Derz, Kate Downhill, John Edwards, Dongwang Fan, Ashleigh Garwood, Eloise Kirk, Owen Leong, Laura Moore, Deb Mostert, Marisa Purcell and Genevieve Felix Reynolds.

Congratulations to all 15 finalists as well as the many artists who submitted their work for consideration for the exhibition.

Statement from the GCS art award judges Rhonda Davis and Dr Andrew Frost

The 2016 exhibition of finalist is a beautifully cohesive exhibition with works that leap out and others that are more nuanced and reflective. Overall it is a very interesting representation of a number of strands of contemporary practice.

The different media presented give an insight into what contemporary artists are doing and the subjects artists are tackling. This selection proves to be a strong group – any of which could be a valuable addition to the collection. However, there can be only one winner.

The Mark Titmarsh triptych is an outstanding winner. It is a timely work combining many different elements, with aspects of scientific and mathematical thinking and links to traditional art practice. Mark's work forges an interesting path and he is a very idiosyncratic artist. This work is technically and conceptually brilliant, and will undoubtedly provide strong educational links.

About Mark Titmarsh

Mark Titmarsh works in painting, screen media and writing. His artworks are held in the collection of the National Gallery of Australia, most State Galleries, and in private collections overseas. Mark completed a PhD in Painting at University of Technology Sydney, he holds a Masters degree in Visual Arts and has studied at St. Martin's College of Art, London; the University of London; the Pietro Vannucci School of Fine Arts, Italy and the University for Foreigners in Perugia, Italy.

In the 1990s Mark co-founded the Sydney based artists group Art Hotline. He was active in issues surrounding the arts - defending artists' rights and raising awareness of their contribution to the national cultural environment. In the 1980s he established an international reputation as an experimental filmmaker and in Australia was a co-founding member of the Super 8 Film Group.

The exhibition of the finalists' work will be on display until 10 December at the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery. Entry is free and the gallery is open from Monday to Friday 10 am-5 pm and Saturday 9 am- 4 pm.

Available for interview:

Mary Faith, Director of the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery, and Lisa Jones, Gallery Coordinator 9473 7878

Artwork: *Light from Light, Part 1-3*, acrylic and automotive polish on aluminium, 110 x 90 each (3 panels)