

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**17 September 2017**

### **Fremantle's Olga Cironis wins 2017 Perth Royal Art Prize**

The inaugural Perth Royal Art Prize for Landscape been awarded to Olga Cironis from East Fremantle. Olga's work, titled *Storm at Port*, was awarded the coveted \$20,000 prize at the opening of the 2017 Perth Royal Art Prize exhibition in Claremont on Monday evening

54 finalists were selected from 283 entries for the prize; the only one in WA committed to landscape. 2017 marks a turning point for the prize; it introduces a theme, the appointment of a professional art curator and a significant increase in prize money.

This year's judges – Gary Aitken, Director, Alcoa Mandurah Art Gallery; and accomplished WA artist; Lee Kinsella, Exhibitions Coordinator, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, The University of Western Australia; and Royal Agricultural Society of WA Art Curator Sandra Murray, said the winning work is “a thoroughly resolved artwork that displays a maturity of artistic intent and ability. *Storm at Port* is an unconventional landscape which speaks both of vastness and place.”

“The winning work is a conceptually strong interpretation of landscape with an engaging element of text delivered through a sophisticated handling of recycled industrial material,” added Sandra.

The works of the finalists are on display at the Wilkinson Gallery, Claremont Showground from 19 to 21 September, 6pm to 8pm with free admission, and again during the 2017 IGA Perth Royal Show, 23 to 30 September.

Highly recommended finalists of the awards were; Robert Gear (of Wattle Grove, Perth) *Outpost 2017* oil on canvas and Susan Hoy (of Mindarie, Perth) *Beach cottage, Quinns #2* 2017 gouache on Saunders Waterford paper.

#### **Olga Cironis' - *Storm at Port***

“Early each morning in rain, hail or shine, while most are still asleep, I go to the Indian Ocean for a quiet walk and an awakening swim. *Storm over Port* captures one of these magical early winter mornings in 2017. A teasing storm on the horizon promises to rage towards the coast line while the wind from the south-west unsettles the calmness below the greying sky. In the water I watch the storm come in, as the light of the morning manages to touch the darkness into day.”



Cironis holds a Masters and Bachelors of Visual Arts from the University of Sydney and a Diploma of Education from Edith Cowan University. She is represented in numerous prominent collections nationally & internationally. Her artistic investigations are founded upon her Greek, Czech and Australian heritage. These aspects are used to engage people beyond the familiar.

*Join the winner and highly commended artists' floor talk with Royal Agricultural Society of WA Art Curator Sandra Murray at 6.30 pm, Wednesday 27 September 2017 (Perth Royal Show entry fees apply)*

High res images of art works available. Finalist names are available upon request. The prize winners and the curator are available for interview.

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