Sport and art come together again with the announcement of the 16 finalists in the 4th biennial Basil Sellers Art Prize – one of Australia’s richest and most prestigious art prizes.


The Basil Sellers Art Prize encourages artists to take on the theme of sport in any artistic medium and supports artists whose work explores Australia’s obsession with sport. The works of the finalists will be exhibited at the Ian Potter Museum of Art, University of Melbourne, 22 July 2014 to 26 October 2014, with the winner announced on

Director of the Ian Potter Museum of Art, Kelly Gellatly, said “This selection of extraordinary Australian contemporary artists consolidates the fourth presentation of the biennial award. All finalists present distinctive approaches to the sporting theme and we can expect some surprising and intriguing perspectives on this country’s national obsession.”

The finalists’ perspectives on the interrelationships between sport and art will cover a range of issues including: Australian history and sporting vernacular; politics and Indigenous athletes; iconic sporting objects as symbols and the athlete as metaphor for the artist. The artists draw inspiration from AFL football, skateboarding, wood-chop, tennis, cycling, swimming, equestrian, dance backgammon and surfing.
The finalists will have had eight months to complete their work before the judging panel decides who will be awarded the $100,000 Basil Sellers Art Prize 4 and a further $5,000 will be presented to one of the exhibiting finalists for the People’s Choice Prize on the basis of public vote.

Judges include Elizabeth Ann Macgregor OBE, Director of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; Kelly Gellatly, Director of the Ian Potter Museum of Art; Robert Cook, curator of modern and contemporary photography and design at the Art Gallery of Western Australia; Michael Hawker AM, distinguished businessman and a veteran of 25 Australian rugby test matches and now Chairman of Australian Rugby Union; Dr Chris McAuliffe, consultant for the Basil Sellers Group, and Basil Sellers AM.

ENDS

Tony Albert, Brothers (our past, our present, our future) 2012–13
inkjet prints, each 150 x 100 cm, © Courtesy the artist and Sullivan + Strumpf, Sydney

Background Basil Sellers AM

The Basil Sellers Art Prize encourages artists to take on the theme of sporting culture and interpret it through their chosen practice. The prize is supported by Basil Sellers AM, a businessman and philanthropist. Basil is a well known collector of art and a sports enthusiast who spends his time between Australia and Europe. The Basil Sellers Art Prize aims to encourage artists to engage with sporting culture and to develop their practice through reflection on sport and culture in Australia.

For further information please go to: http://www.sellersartprize.com.au

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Hours: Tuesday to Friday 10am - 5pm: Saturday and Sunday 12 - 5pm, Admission free.