Louise Hearman - Basil Sellers Art Prize 2012 awards

Artist Louise Hearman has taken out her second major award in this year’s prestigious Basil Sellers Art Prize, winning The Yarra Trams People’s Choice Award, valued at $5,000. Last month, she was awarded the National Sports Museum Basil Sellers Creative Arts Fellowship, valued at $50,000.

Awarded on the basis of popular vote by visitors to the exhibition, The Yarra Trams People’s Choice Award, was presented by Michel Masson, CEO, Yarra Trams to Louise Hearman for her collection of 14 paintings depicting Australian Rules Footballers.

“We are delighted to announce the Yarra Trams People’s Choice to Louise Hearman.

“This work has clearly struck a chord with Melbourne art lovers and sports enthusiasts alike.” announced Michel Masson.

Ian Potter Museum of Art, Director, Dr Chris McAuliffe says “Hearman’s work captures the physical, emotional and seasonal aspects of football. She paints muscular players and frenzied fans bathed in Melbourne’s limpid winter light’.

“Hearman’s paintings cannily map the world of football, from kids in the backyard through to the heroes of the big league. Heroes, umpires and one-eyed fans all come together in her painted hymns to Aussie Rules.”

“The overall impact of the Basil Sellers Art Prize 3 exhibition is particularly impressive, reflective of the different ways in which the Australian spirit can be articulated; whether in the desire for fair play, the quirky behaviour of the fan, or the role of sport in everyday life.’

“This has been the most successful exhibition at the Ian Potter Museum with attendance up 47%, and we are thrilled that this exhibition will travel for the first time, re-opening at the Gold Coast Gallery, Gold Coast, Queensland from 8 February 2013.’ said Dr McAuliffe.

The 2012 National Sports Museum [NSM] Basil Sellers Creative Arts Fellowship is designed to further stimulate an artists’ career and extend their association with sport. Hearman will study and paint athletes in action, as well as making photographic studies of sporting spectators and supporters culminating in an exhibition at the NSM and Melbourne Cricket Ground in 2014.

The $100,000 Basil Sellers Art Prize 3 was awarded to Melbourne based Jon Campbell for his work, “Dream team”, depicting the nicknames of famous AFL players, past and present. The work consists of 22 enamel paintings on board featuring names such as “Captain Blood”, “Cowboy”, “Dipper”, “Daisy” and “Buddy Love”.
The other 2012 finalists are: Brook Andrew, Richard Bell, Lauren Brincat, Pat Macan, Louise Hearman, Greg Creek, Eugene Carchesio, Gabriella Mangano and Silvana Mangano, Simon Perry, Kerrie Poliness, Patrick Pound, Christian Thompson, Sangeeta Sandrasegar.

**Basil Sellers Art Prize 3 closed at The Ian Potter Museum of Art, University of Melbourne last weekend and re-opens at the Gold Coast Gallery, Gold Coast, Queensland on 8 February until 14 April 2013 [www.sellersartprize.com.au](http://www.sellersartprize.com.au)**

*Untitled (detail) 2012, oil on composition board
All works courtesy the artist, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne; Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney; and Milani Gallery, Brisbane*

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**Hours:** Tuesday to Friday 10am - 5pm; Saturday and Sunday 12 - 5pm; (Free admission)