The Basil Sellers Art Prize is an art competition for Australian artists to make art that explores themes of sport in the broadest sense. Fifteen shortlisted artists are exhibited, with work ranging from photography, video, painting, and sculpture. Artists address Indigenous, Australian and international sport in a challenging and stimulating line-up of artworks. The exhibition illuminates the personal and political, demonstrating the links between sport and community life, personal achievements, political controversies, and emotional spectacle encompassing drama, ecstasy and pain. The artists present critical and creative approaches to sport. In August 2012, an acquisitive prize of $100,000 will be awarded to a single, outstanding artwork displayed in the exhibition of shortlisted finalists at the Ian Potter Museum of Art, the University of Melbourne. The prize is supported by philanthropist, Basil Sellers AM, to encourage artists to develop their practice by engaging with themes of sport past and present, and to contribute to critical reflection on all forms of sport and sporting culture in Australia.

**English as a Second Language (ESL) Programs**

**Date:** Tuesday 7 August – Friday 2 November (Tuesdays to Fridays)

**Times:** Museum entry hours (10am – 5pm). Session times & duration negotiable (minimum 1 hour session).

**Location:** The Ian Potter Museum of Art, Swanston Street, Parkville (between Faraday and Elgin Streets).

**Why bring ESL students to the Potter?**

Programs cater to all ESL courses, including the AMEP, LNNP, CSWE, ELICOS, IELTS, and General and Academic programs across all levels: elementary, pre-intermediate, intermediate, upper intermediate, and advanced. The tours are ideal to introduce newly arrived students and current students to concepts and issues of settlement, Australian culture, the importance of sport in Australian culture and to enhance socio-cultural knowledge of the role of museums in society.

**Tailor-made program**

Negotiate a tailor-made tour with the educator to suit your class, curriculum and student needs. Activities and discussions can focus on developing macro skills: **speaking, listening, reading and writing.** Lessons can be **topic-based** or **language-based**, surrounding the theme of sport. Pre-visit worksheets are available upon request and post-visit classroom activities are offered to extend discussion of the artworks in the classroom.

**The Art of Descriptive Writing**

**Recommended for all ESL courses and English proficiency levels**

Students will learn how to produce descriptive writing as they look at, describe and analyse a range of artworks that address the theme of sport and Australian identity. Students engage in vocabulary and written activities using art as a stimulus for their writing. They will generate initial and personal responses to artworks and may write from the perspective of various characters, including viewer, spectator, sport commentator, journalist, sportsperson and artist. These can be applied to a variety of writing genres including articles, letters and short stories. Responses can be developed into finished pieces at school. Specific content can be discussed with the educator.

**Sport in Australian Art and Culture**

**Recommended for all ESL courses and English proficiency levels**

Extend English language skills including speaking, listening, descriptive language and visual literacy through discussion of Australian and international sport displayed in the exhibition. Students learn about the history of the Basil Sellers Art Prize and are introduced to the notion of a “competition”, whereby artists, like sportspersons compete for an award. They will explore questions about sport and art, interpret the meaning behind selected artworks, and appreciate the richness sport has brought to Australian history, culture, identity and lifestyle using questioning techniques including Visual Thinking Strategies developed by Harvard Graduate School of Education.

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

Advance bookings essential for all tours with the education officer.

**Call Purnima to book on 04 0116 2987 or email purnima.r@unimelb.edu.au**

*Christian Thompson
To make you feel this way 2012
digital photograph, 30 x 125 cm
Courtesy the artist, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne; and Chahine House, Sydney*