



## MEDIA RELEASE

20 September 2023

EMBARGOED UNTIL 9:00PM AWST 21 September 2023

### PERTH ARTIST TARRYN GILL WINS 2023 LESTER PRIZE

Artist Tarryn Gill from Perth/Boorloo WA has won the 2023 Richard Lester Prize for Portraiture for her self-portrait titled *Limber (self-portrait in relief)*. The winners of The Lester Prize – WA's premier portrait prize, were announced tonight at the Art Gallery of WA (AGWA) where the forty finalist's works are on public display for eight weeks from Friday 22 September to Sunday 26 November.

Tarryn Gill's work is created with textiles on board 90 x 65 cm. It won her the \$50,000 main prize, and it is her first time as a The Lester Prize Finalist. Judges Alan R. Dodge AM, Gina Fairley, and Emma Bitmead remarked that:

*Tarryn Gill's portrait Limber (self-portrait in relief) demonstrates a resolved artistic practice through its confidence of making and visual language. The work uses materials powerfully to present a harmonious bodily and gestural portrait. Gill's work is a challenge to perceptions of portraiture, without ostracising the viewer. It is a very accomplished study of self.*

Other prize winners announced this evening were:

- \$10,000 Barton Family Foundation Installers Prize: Minjung Kang, Perth WA: *Silence*
- \$10,000 Minderoo Foundation Spirit Prize: Liz Stute, Melbourne VIC: *Jess*
- \$20,000 Tony Fini Foundation Artist Prize: Minjung Kang, Perth WA: *Silence*.
- \$5,000 Ashurst Emerging Artist : India Mark, Wollongong NSW: *Studio self-portrait*
- Highly Commended: Sarah Paton, Perth WA: *Memento mori*
- Highly Commended: Minjung Kang, Perth WA: *Silence*

The works were judged by Alan R. Dodge AM, Gina Fairley, and Emma Bitmead.

Tarryn Gill is a Boorloo/Perth-based multidisciplinary artist who makes works across sculpture, installation, photography, video, drawing, performance and theatre set, costume and prop design. Upon submitting her work, Tarryn said that the work:

*reflects on my personal history as a dancer performing body contortions, and my growth through hypermobility, instability & injury.*

The Lester Prize is among the most recognised and prestigious art prizes in Australia, and is now in its seventeenth year. More than 950 artists from across Australia entered this year's prize. The Lester Prize prize pool is now valued over \$115,000.

The Baldock Family People's Choice Prize and the winning voter will be announced no later 1 December 2023.

# The Lester Prize

Amongst the 2023 Finalists were 12 artists from WA, 11 from VIC, 8 from NSW, 4 from QLD, 4 from SA and 1 from TAS.

“Again we were thrilled with the level of engagement with The Lester Prize through submissions of works by artists throughout Australia, as well as the judges enthusiasm and our sponsor support. I encourage everyone to come and view the forty finalists on display at AGWA over the next nine weeks and cast their vote for the Baldock Family People’s Choice award” – Annie Silberstein, Executive Director, The Lester Prize.

Click on the link below for the forty finalists and low-resolution images of their works. High-resolution images available upon request.

<https://www.lesterprize.com/gallery-the-lester-prize-for-portraiture/the-lester-prize-for-portraiture/2023-2/>

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### About The Lester Prize

The Lester Prize is managed by The Lester Inc. Founded in 2007, it is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to celebrate portraiture from artists across Australia. With an annual prize pool worth over \$115,000, it is now one of the nation’s most recognised and prestigious art prizes. Find out more about The Lester Prize at [www.lesterprize.com](http://www.lesterprize.com).

### KEY DATES

<b>MAIN AWARDS EXHIBITION</b> AGWA Gallery 6, Perth Cultural Centre, Perth	Fri 22 Sept – Sun 26 Nov 2023
<b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM – ARTIST TALKS, WORKSHOPS, TOURS, SPECIAL EVENTS</b>	Fri 22 Sept – Sun 26 Nov 2023
<b>EXHIBITION TOUR</b> Collie Art Gallery	Coming March 2024
<b>YOUTH AWARDS EXHIBITION</b> WA Museum Boola Bardip, Perth Cultural Centre, Perth	Coming April 2024

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