

Media Release 2020 Maritime Art Prize and Exhibition Call for Entries

The Mission to Seafarers Maritime Art Prize and Exhibition is an international competition that has been hosted at the heritage-listed Mission building in Melbourne's Docklands for eighteen years and is returning once again in 2020.

Artists are invited to respond to the theme '*The Relationship of Humanity to the Sea*'. Last year the exhibition featured 90 finalists whose work was selected from over 250 entries from as far afield as Germany, Spain, Bangladesh, Pakistan, USA and New Zealand.

Entrants compete for a share of \$20,000 in prize money across five categories – Maritime Art Award, Best Traditional, Runner-Up, Emerging Artist and People's Choice Award. Amongst the traditional beauty of oil paintings and watercolours of maritime subjects in the exhibition, artists have demonstrated a move to include more contemporary works in recent years.

\$10,000	Maritime Art Award
\$5,000	Best in Traditional Maritime Art Award
\$1,000	Emerging Artist Award
\$2,000	People's Choice Award
\$2,000	Runner-Up Award

The event is a major fundraising initiative of the Mission to Seafarers. Australia relies on shipping and seafarers to connect to the world and to bring goods to our homes for the economy to thrive, and for the health of our island nation. The Mission to Seafarers provides welfare services to support the tireless work, isolation and hardships faced by those seafarers. The generosity of our sponsors who provide the prize money and other in-kind contributions, and the artists who pay an entrance fee and a commission on all works that are sold, ensures the continued success and wide popularity of the Maritime Art Awards and Exhibition and in turn, supports those seafarers.

This year's Judges are:

Mr Graeme H. Williams OAM; art collector, Board Member of the Lorne Sculpture Biennale 2020 and past curator of Melbourne Savage Club Art Prize

With others to be confirmed.



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The Mission to Seafarers building is an enchanting and iconic building in Docklands. Recently renovated, it is open daily to the public and is well worth a visit any time of the year, and particularly to see the Maritime Art Prize and Exhibition which is displayed throughout the public areas of the building, including the Norla Dome.

Dates:

Call for Entries: 1st May to 31st August

Exhibition Opening Night and Awards Ceremony (invitation only): Thursday 1st October 6pm Exhibition Friday 2nd to Sunday 18th October 10am-8pm

Contact the team at the Mission to Seafarers Victoria for assistance with:

- Site visits for journalists, photographers and camera crews
- Information about artists and the Maritime Art Prize.
- Interview and photo opportunities with artists and MtSV staff
- Copyright-cleared images

Chief Manager: Sue Dight Events Manager: Daria Wray <u>artprize@missiontoseafarers.com.au</u> <u>missiontoseafarers.com.au/art-prize</u>

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