

MEDIA RELEASE

15 September 2020

Get your easel out and make a submission to prestigious art awards

The time to dust off your easel has arrived with artists across the nation encouraged to submit an entry to *The 45th Rio Tinto Martin Hanson Memorial Art Awards*.

Submissions for the Art Awards open on Wednesday, 30 September and run until Tuesday, 6 October (excluding Sunday 4 and Monday's Public Holiday on 5 October), allowing artists time to brush up on their skills and turn in their masterpieces.

A total of \$40,000 in prize money is on offer across 22 award categories, including the winning prize of \$15,000 for The 45th Rio Tinto Martin Hanson Memorial Art Award, sponsored by Rio Tinto and Queensland Alumina Limited.

There will be four sections for submissions – Easel Paintings, Works on Paper, Three Dimensional & Fibre Works and Digital Works.

Gladstone Region Councillor and Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) chair Glenn Churchill said the prestigious Art Awards will be judged by artist, writer and curator Sue Smith.

“Sue has held various positions within the arts, particularly in Central Queensland,” Councillor Churchill said.

“She has worked for CQUniversity and has also been Director at Rockhampton Art Gallery as well as the Manager of Art Services for the Rockhampton Regional Council.

“She has over 30 years of experience in the public and private sectors of the visual arts in Australia and England and has curated and coordinated many exhibitions during that time.

“Sue replaces original 2020 judge Tracy Puklowski, who unfortunately couldn't attend the 45th Art Awards due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.”

Cr Churchill said the 2020 Art Awards will differ slightly from previous years due to the ongoing COVID-19 health emergency.

“Venue capacity limits will be in place and patrons are encouraged to check the GRAGM website or Facebook page should details change,” Cr Churchill said.

Submissions for *The 45th Rio Tinto Martin Hanson Memorial Art Awards* are to be delivered to GRAGM, located on the corner of Goondoon and Bramston streets, Gladstone, between 10am-4pm from Wednesday, 30 September until Tuesday, 6 October 2020.

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MEDIA INFORMATION: For further information contact Council's Communications and Marketing Section on 4977 6803 or media@gladstone.qld.gov.au

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The entry fee is \$15 per submission, with a maximum of one entry per artist.

Please visit GRAGM or go online to www.gragm.qld.gov.au to fill in an entry form, view the conditions of entry and key dates.

The 45th Rio Tinto Martin Hanson Memorial Art Awards Official Opening and Awards Presentation will be held on Saturday, 17 October.

For further enquiries, contact GRAGM on (07) 4976 6766 or email gragm@gladstone.qld.gov.au.

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