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World's richest landscape art prize winner announced

The world's richest landscape art prize, The Fleurieu Art Prize has been awarded to **Tony Albert** for his work, ***The Hand You're Dealt***.

The prestigious landscape prize, valued at \$65,000 was announced this evening at the 2016 Fleurieu Art Prize Exhibition launch at the Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art in Adelaide.

The Boards of the Fleurieu Art Prize and Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art are delighted to announce the winner and the collection of 57 finalist works.

Returning international judge, Nigel Hurst, Director of London's Saatchi Gallery, led this year's judging panel and said:

"The Fleurieu Art Prize is a testament to the growing importance of the Prize, with so many significant artists entering this year."

"We chose Tony Albert's work for its deft and playful, yet considered interpretation of his homeland. His use of something so every day as playing cards to create this exquisite, visually arresting and pertinent work exemplifies the skill and talent of this deserving Fleurieu Art Prize winner."

Erica Green, Director of Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art said that "Tony Albert is a most worthy winner and we're especially pleased to award this prize to an indigenous artist during National Reconciliation Week 2016."

Tony Albert's winning work ***The Hand You're Dealt*** is a wall piece comprised of a suite of vintage playing cards, whose placement weaves references to Western popular culture and Australian Aboriginal culture. These intricate pieces which comprise the overall installation are superbly crafted by Albert through cutting, collage and construction techniques, work to displace traditional Australian Aboriginal aesthetics and accepted national stereotypes. This seamless blend of the kitsch and classic speaks in a contemporary voice about the Australian landscape.

In interrogating his immense collection of "Aboriginalia" (a term the artist coined to describe kitschy objects and images that feature naive portrayals of Aboriginality), Albert asks us to engage with the Australian landscape: tangible, social and political.

Tony Albert has exhibited his work at many international venues, including the Musée d'Aquitaine, Bordeaux, France; the Singapore Art Museum; the National Museum of China, Beijing; and the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Israel. He was also included in the 10th Biennial of Havana, Cuba, and the 2014 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art, Dark Heart.



In 2014 he won both the \$100,000 Basil Sellers Art Prize and the prestigious \$50,000 Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award. He is also well represented in exhibitions and collections of institutions within Australia, including the National Gallery of Australia, the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the Art Gallery of Western Australia and Brisbane's Gallery of Modern Art—Queensland Art Gallery.

Tony Albert who is represented by Sydney's sullivan+strumpf, is currently working with the family of famed Aboriginal artist Albert Namatjira in Alice Springs and said this prize will help continue work with the Namatjira family and towards the development of a Namatjira Foundation.

Over 750 entries were received for this year's Fleurieu Art Prize, with the 58 shortlisted works judged by Nigel Hurst, Director, Saatchi Gallery London; Suhanya Raffel, Deputy Director and Director of Collections, Art Gallery of New South Wales; and Erica Green, Director, Samstag Museum of Art, University of South Australia.

These works will be on display at the Samstag Museum of Art from Friday 3 June until Friday 29 July. This year marks the Prize's relocation from the Fleurieu Peninsula and presented to city audiences for the first time at the Samstag Museum of Art in Adelaide.

Other components of the Prize festival include the **People's Choice Award** and the **Food + Wine Art Prize**.

Food + Wine Art Prize

The *2016 Fleurieu Art Prize for Landscape* is accompanied by a Festival Community Program celebrating the art, food and wine of the Fleurieu Peninsula region. The highlight of this program is the \$10,000 Fleurieu Food + Wine Art Prize, a non-acquisitive prize for paintings with a food and wine theme. The Food + Wine Art Prize will be anchored in McLaren Vale and will continue the Fleurieu Art Prize's close association with the Fleurieu Peninsula.



Key dates

Fri 3 June	Exhibition opens
Sat 4 June	Food + Wine Art Prize exhibition opens. Various venues McLaren Vale
Thurs 14 July, 5-7pm	Fleurieu Art Prize and ART AFTER DARK present a lecture on Australian Landscape Art with Margot Osborne
	People’s Choice winner announced
Fri 29 July	Exhibitions close

For images and further media information please contact Erica Green, Director Samstag Museum of Art
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The Fleurieu Art Prize thanks and acknowledges its generous donors, sponsors and suppliers.

Thank you — *David Burgess, Scott + Zoe Elvish, Michael + Janet Hayes, Ulrike Klein, The Lang Foundation, Fiona MacLachlan, David + Pam McKee, Peter + Pam McKee, Didy McLaurin, Henry Michell, Janie Michell, John Phillips, Kieran Purcell, Libby Raupach + Mark Lloyd, Sam Saunders, Gosia Schild, Tracey Whiting, Pam Yule, Solstice Media, Wirra Wirra.*

