Media Release

Celebrating art and sport: The Basil Sellers Art Prize 4

8 May – 3 July 2015

LAST WEEKS – exhibition closes Friday July 3

The Samstag Museum of Art, University of South Australia is proud to present the prestigious and distinctively Australian exhibition, Basil Sellers Art Prize 4. Presented in partnership with Basil Sellers AM and the Ian Potter Museum, University of Melbourne, the biannual Basil Sellers Art Prize is unique in combining art and sport.

The prize encourages contemporary artists to develop their practice, to engage with the many themes within sport past and present, and to contribute to critical reflection on all forms of sport and sporting culture in Australia. An acquisitive prize of $100,000 is awarded to a single, outstanding artwork, displayed in an exhibition of shortlisted finalists. The winner of the 2014 prize is Tony Albert, for his work Once upon a time... 2014. Past winners include Daniel Crooks (2008), Tarryn Gill & Pilar Mata Dupont (2010) and Jon Campbell (2012).

The Basil Sellers Art Prize is uniquely important because it understands the complexity of both art and sport as cultural reflectors and cultural shapers. It asserts that art and sport can be
uttered in the same sentence and that people can comfortably move between one and the other. It champions the idea that the exhibition provides an entry to the art world for those who are not regular visitors, and likewise, an introduction to sport for those who neither participate nor watch. Both art and sport are culturally important in their own ways and play significant roles in the community: in personal and joint enrichment and enjoyment, in helping us to understand more about ourselves, and most importantly, in comprehending and analysing the world in which we live and play.

In the Basil Sellers Art Prize 4, sixteen artists tackle subjects as diverse as boxing, surfing, tennis, horseracing, cricket and Australian Rules football. Many of the works go beyond the mere depiction of a sport—using it as a theme through which to investigate greater issues such as racism, sexism, community and notions of discipline, nation building and identity.


For further information please contact Samstag Museum of Art Director Erica Green
T +618 8302 0870 or email Erica.Green@unisa.edu.au

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Tony ALBERT, Once upon a time... (detail) 2014, watercolour, gouache, printed book covers, collage, paper, wooden blocks, plastic figurines, vinyl, 27 components, installation (variable): 200 x 300 cm © Courtesy the artist and Sullivan+Strumpf, Sydney.