

DRAFT – for release 7 November 2014  
EMBARGOED until 12pm (midday) 7 November 2014

## ALAN JONES announced as winner of the Kilgour Prize 2014.



Alan Jones *Robert Forrester #2*  
oil and acrylic on linen, 194 x 179cm  
2014 Kilgour Prize Winner

Alan Jones was announced today as the recipient of the *2014 Kilgour Prize*, Newcastle Art Gallery's prestigious annual award for figurative and portrait painting. The highly competitive prize, judged by a selection panel, awards \$50,000 to the winning artist.

The announcement was made during an exclusive preview of the *2014 Kilgour Prize* exhibition at the Gallery, which will be open to the public from 8 November 2014 to 25 January 2015.

"It is a pleasure to award the 2014 Kilgour Prize to Alan Jones," said Sarah Johnson, Curator of Newcastle Art Gallery and a member of the three-judge panel. "Judging this competition was quite a challenge — the quality of submissions and the works of art by the finalists was high."

This year's competition drew from a field of over 140 entries, both local and nationally recognised Australian artists. The Kilgour

Prize recognises the best in Australian figurative and portraiture art, using painting media including oil, acrylic, watercolour and mixed media.

In addition to the prize awarded by the judging panel, the competition also includes a People's Choice prize of \$5,000 chosen by visitors to the Gallery. With support from the Newcastle Herald, voting can also take place online, with online voting open from midnight, 7 November 2014 and in-person straight after the announcement took place. The winner of the *Kilgour Prize* People's Choice Award will be announced in the Newcastle Herald on Saturday 10 January 2015

The community is invited to come to the Gallery and see the winning work, cast their vote for the People's Choice Award, and view the works of the talented finalists in the *2014 Kilgour Prize* exhibition.

The exhibition will open to the public on Saturday 8 November 2014 with a panel discussion featuring Alan Jones, the three judges and finalist, comedian and artist Anh Do. The panel discussion is a free event and will run from 11am – 12pm.

Funded by the bequest of artist Jack Noel Kilgour, the Kilgour Prize is one of the most lucrative art awards in the country.

“We are incredibly fortunate that Newcastle Art Gallery was chosen by Jack Kilgour for his generous bequest, which has resulted in our ability to award this incredible prize to a contemporary Australian artist,” said Liz Burcham, Cultural Director for the City of Newcastle.

“This Gallery has a national reputation for the breadth and depth of its collection, and the Kilgour Prize elevates the Gallery’s profile all the more.”

## ATTACHMENTS:

- 1: About the artist
- 2: Information on the winning work
- 3: Judges and finalists
- 4: Public programs

**Cultural Director Liz Burcham, Curator Sarah Johnson and selected artists for interviews during the exhibition dates. To coordinate, contact Council Media Officer Dana Fischetti on (02) 4974 2264 or [dfischetti@ncc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dfischetti@ncc.nsw.gov.au).**

For details regarding all exhibitions and events programming visit [www.nag.org.au](http://www.nag.org.au)

## ATTACHMENT 1: About the artist

**Alan Jones**

**b. 1977, Gosford, NSW, Australia**

Alan Jones' work explores ideas that surround notions of identity. Embracing diversity, Jones works across a broad spectrum of media as he takes a personal approach to subject matter. Self-portraits and family members often find themselves sitting alongside images symbolic of British nationalism as Jones traces back his family's heritage and reflects on Australian colonial history. Through this process, Jones aims to communicate to the viewer the intricacies of human connections and how his own roots subsequently influence his work.

Throughout his career to date, Jones has travelled extensively within Australia and overseas. In 1997 He gained his Bachelor of Fine Arts at the National Art School and he has since furthered his education abroad as the recipient of the 1997 Inaugural Pat Corrigan Travelling Art Scholarship and 2004 Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship. In 2008 Jones won the Paddington Art Prize for landscape painting. Then in 2010 he was recognised by the Kedumba Collection of Contemporary Australian Drawing as a recipient of the Kedumba Drawing Award. He won the Fisher's Ghost Art Award in 2011, he was awarded the Allan Gamble Memorial Art Prize in 2013 and he was a finalist in the prestigious Archibald Prize in 2013 and again in 2014.

Important public collections that have acquired Jones' work include: Artbank, Macquarie Group, Maitland Regional Art Gallery and the Gold Coast City Art Gallery.

Alan Jones has held 20 solo exhibitions and has been involved in over 100 group exhibitions in various commercial, regional and state galleries throughout Australia, the UK and Asia.

## ATTACHMENT 2: Information on the winning work

**Alan Jones**  
***Robert Forrester # 2***  
**oil and acrylic on linen**  
**194 x 179cm**

Alan Jones' maternal family heritage can be traced back to the arrival of convict Robert Forrester aboard the First Fleet.

Forrester and his co-accused Richard McDale were convicted at The Old Bailey in London in 1783 for a robbery involving *Six pieces of gold coin of the realm called guineas to the value of Six Pounds and Six Shillings being the property of Simon Hughes*. Forrester was sentenced to death.

The death sentence was commuted to transportation to America but due to the ongoing American War of Independence both men were ultimately transported to colonial New South Wales 'for the term of their natural lives.'

Forrester spent the next three years imprisoned on the Thames before setting sail on *The Scarborough*, the hulk that would become one of the eleven First Fleet boats arriving to 'New South Wales' in 1788.

Following an unsettling 18 month period on Norfolk Island, Forrester eventually made his way up the Hawkesbury River to Green Hills (now known as Windsor). Forrester lived and worked in the Hawkesbury area with his second (common law) wife Isabella 'Bella' Ramsay (convict aboard *Mary Ann*, Third Fleet) for the remaining years of his life. Robert Forrester died on 14 February 1827, age 69.

In *Robert Forrester #2*, Forrester appears worn out, shackled and placed abruptly in front of the plot of land he was first granted on the Hawkesbury River in 1794. This small plot of land located in Windsor frequently appears in Jones' work as he continues to draw inspiration from this connection to the Hawkesbury area.

Jones has been exploring Australia's colonial history and the journey of the First Fleet for some time. It interests him from both a personal perspective and from a broader view point as an Australian.

Jones is unflinching in his exploration of the tension between his own personal and family identity and the broader context of the shameful history of colonisation and its impact on the First Australians.

## ATTACHMENT 3: Judges and finalists

### **2014 Kilgour Prize Judges:**

John Cheeseman, Manager Cultural Services/ Gallery Director Mosman Art Gallery

Andrew Frost, Art writer and critic

Sarah Johnson, Curator Newcastle Art Gallery

### **2014 Kilgour Prize Finalists:**

Michael Bell *The Park (self portrait)*

Alvina Bishop-Edwards *Doctored*

Clare Brodie *Holiday*

Anh Do *Pat*

Graeme Drendel *The Ballad of Ticklebelly Hill*

John Edwards *Remember Me*

Melissa Hartley *In the wee small hours*

Alan Jones *Robert Forrester #2*

Steve Lopes *Feiticun Transition*

Stewart MacFarlane *Beach House*

Rachel Milne *Becca With New Computer*

Michael Muir *Self portrait with beard and flowers*

Tom Phillips *Boxer 2*

Liam Power *Self Portrait with Meat Cleaver and Hindquarter*

Matthew *Quick Crowning Glory*

Paul Ryan *Wollongong Cannibal*

Robin Stewart *The Fabricator*

Mark Tweedie *Lost my way*

Deborah Wilkinson *Presence*

## ATTACHMENT 4: Public programs

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### **Kilgour Panel Discussion**

Saturday 8 November 2014

11.00am – 12.00pm

Free, bookings preferred

Call 02 4974 5100

To launch the exhibition, visit on the opening weekend to hear a panel discussion featuring Alan Jones, winner of the Kilgour Prize 2014, the judging panel, and finalist, comedian and artist Anh Do.

### **Kilgour Artist Workshop**

with a Kilgour 2014 finalist

Saturday 17 January 2015

11.00am – 3.00pm

\$55 per person, includes lunch and some materials

Bookings required, more information at time of booking

Call 02 4974 5100

This workshop will allow participants to explore materials and processes inspired by the artist's own practice.

### **Kilgour People's Choice Award**

Vote for your favourite figurative or portrait painting in the Kilgour Prize 2014.

The People's Choice Award of \$5000 is awarded to the winning artist as voted by the public.

Announcement of the winner of the 2014 Kilgour Prize People's Choice Award will be published in the Newcastle Herald on Saturday 10 January 2015.