

MEDIA RELEASE

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National portraiture exhibition set to wow Prison visitors

A photographic collection promoting portraiture by amateur and professional contemporary Australian photographers will be showcased in the *National Photographic Portrait Prize* exhibition at Fremantle Prison.

Fremantle Prison's Head Curator Sandra Murray said the Prison was honoured to host this exhibition, which is now an annual event in its fourth year at the National Portrait Gallery.

"The *National Photographic Portrait Prize* provides an opportunity for photographers whose work is unpublished, or carried out as a sideline, to introduce their work to art professionals and the public alike," Ms Murray said.

"This is the first time the show has travelled to Western Australia and Fremantle Prison is one of only three venues to host the show, along with Bunbury and Geraldton.

"Several photographs submitted to previous Prize exhibitions have been acquired by the National Portrait Gallery.

"In addition, several previous entrants have since been commissioned to produce portraits for the Gallery's permanent collection – which only serves to emphasise the calibre of the portraits."

The fifty five portraits on display were chosen by four judges from 1,200 entries submitted online. The works selected for exhibition were then printed and mounted by the photographers, according to their individual taste and artistic vision.

Each photograph is accompanied by a statement by the photographer, identifying the portrait subject and conveying something of the story behind the work. In many cases, the statement is a revelation that radically alters the way the photograph is understood.

The exhibition runs from 10 September to 27 November 2011 in the Prison Gallery at Fremantle Prison. Admission to the exhibition is free, open 9am to 5pm daily.

A National Portrait Gallery exhibition

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This exhibition is supported by the National Collecting Institutions Touring and Outreach Program, an Australian Government program aiming to improve access to the national collections for all Australians.

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NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY EXHIBITION