

THE CHURCHIE EMERGING ART PRIZE 2026

FINALISTS' EXHIBITION

the
churchie
emerging art prize

Metro Arts

Established in 1987, the churchie emerging art prize ('the churchie') is one of Australia's longest-running visual art prize dedicated to emerging artists. Presented annually by Anglican Church Grammar School (Churchie), the non-acquisitive prize has built a strong reputation for promoting innovation and excellence in contemporary artistic practice.

'the churchie' invites Australian artists aged 18 and over to submit works across all subjects and themes, in a variety of media. This year, the prize attracted 550 entries from around the country, with 17 outstanding artists selected as finalists. Together, they represent a compelling snapshot of contemporary art practice in Australia today.

For the third consecutive year, 'the churchie' is proud to partner with Metro Arts as its Programming Partner. This collaboration strengthens the prize's commitment to nurturing talent and creating meaningful opportunities for artists.

This year marks a significant milestone for the prize, with the major prize valued at \$40,000, generously supported by long-term partner BSPN Architecture. This investment reflects a deepened commitment to championing emerging artists and supporting their development at a critical stage of their careers.

In addition to the major prize, there are four additional awards: the Special Commendation Prize, sponsored by Fardoulys Constructions, and two Commendation Prizes, sponsored by Madison Facility Services. A People's Choice Award, sponsored by Hutchinson Builders, will also be announced at the conclusion of the exhibition.

Artist finalists: Badra Aji, Zena Zada Cumpston, Alannah Dair, Kuweni Dias Mendis, Keroshin Govender, Ena Grozdanic, Olive Guardiani, MeiMei Hodgkinson, Georgia Lucy, Alice McCool, Juanita McLauchlan, Yanti Peng, Aris Prabawa, Jonny Scholes, Rosemary Tamas-Cao, Anna Weston, Huiyi Xiao.