



Sheffield Mural Fest Inc

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MEDIA STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ENTRIES OPEN FOR SHEFFIELD'S
INTERNATIONAL MURAL FEST**

ENTRIES are now open for Sheffield's 2008 International Mural Fest.

Now in its sixth year, Mural Fest has become a signature annual event for Tasmania's renowned Town of Murals.

This year, prize money has been boosted to \$6000 for the prestigious major prize, The Judges Choice Award. The People's Choice Award offers a \$2000 prize, while the Visitors Award is \$1000.

As in previous Mural Fest paint-off's, the 2008 International Mural Fest will see nine finalist artists complete a 2100mm high by 4800mm wide mural in 6.5 days. Each artist uses the same poem as the theme or inspiration for their mural.

"Sheffield's purpose built Mural Park is an ideal venue for this unique art competition and one which tests the skills and stamina of the artists as they contend with whatever weather conditions prevail", Mural Fest committee member Julie Hargreaves said.

"There is usually a strong camaraderie between the artists, even though they are competing against each other for the top prize. However, each finalist has already won their place in the week long paint-off, getting through the first round of selections based upon their miniature submissions of the final mural paintings."

"With the hosting of the Global Mural Conference in Sheffield at the same time as Mural Fest (March 23rd to 29th), there is also strong interest from International Mural Artists to participate in the competition and we are expecting an increase in the number of submissions."



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“This year’s poem was written especially with the Global Mural Conference in mind, titled *The Gathering* by Sheffield poet and writer Marc Wasley. “

“It was particularly important to have a poem that would have resonance in communities around the world and it will be interesting to see how it is interpreted by artists of different nationalities.”

To be considered for one of the nine finalist positions, artists must complete a 420mm x 960mm miniature of the mural that they intend to paint and submit it to the organising committee by 30th November 2007.

The paint-off commences on Sunday 23rd March and ends on Saturday 29th March 2008. The presentation of the winners will this year be held at a special Gala Dinner, which forms an integral part of the *Global Mural Fest and Conference 2008* agenda.

Ms Hargreaves said that the 2007 entries currently on display in Mural Park will be taken down prior to the start of the 2008 competition and with the exception of the 2007 winner by Gillian Robnik, the paintings are for sale.

Entry forms and competition instructions, as well as the 2008 poem *The Gathering*, are available from the Mural Fest web site at www.muralfest.com.au or by contacting Jan Clay on 6491 2772 or via email to info@muralfest.com.au.