



PO Box 169, SHEFFIELD
TASMANIA 7306
AUSTRALIA

www.muralfest.com.au

MEDIA STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ENTRIES OPEN FOR SHEFFIELD'S INTERNATIONAL MURAL FEST

ENTRIES are now open for Sheffield's 2009 International Mural Fest.

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

Mural Artists from around the world will once again be vying for the \$6000 Judges Choice Award. There is also the People's Choice Award of \$2000 and the Visitors Award of \$1000 up for grabs for the mural(s) that inspire the most votes from the general public.

As in previous Mural Fest paint-off's, the 2009 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.

This year's poem is titled "Fire & Life" by Cindy Bennett.

Submerged beneath earth,
Molten rock spews forth its fire,
Creating new life.

"The event just keeps on growing, with visitor numbers almost doubling in 2008 to the previous year. The number of entrants has grown significantly too. Artists want to be in the paint-off as much

for the experience as for the chance to win one of the prizes on offer”, Mural Fest committee member Julie Hargreaves said.

“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. But, no matter what the weather may be, the welcome by the people of Sheffield is always warm and artists have regularly commended the level of support from the team of volunteers who look after them“.

“The camaraderie of the artists, even though they are competing against each other for the top prize, is part of the paint-off experience. 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.”

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 their application to the organising committee by 1st December 2008.

The paint-off takes place during Easter Week, commencing on Sunday 12th April and ending on Saturday 18th April 2009.

Ms Hargreaves said that the 2008 entries currently on display in Mural Park will be taken down prior to the start of the 2009 competition and with the exception of the 2008 winner by Marc Spijkerbosch, the paintings are for sale.

Entry forms and competition instructions are available from the Mural Fest web site at www.muralfest.com.au or by contacting Anne Taylor on 6491 2425 or via email to info@muralfest.com.au.

Contact in relation to this media release:

Julie Hargreaves

julie.hgs@bigpond.com

0409 936907