



Sheffield Mural Fest
PO Box 169 SHEFFIELD TAS 7306
www.muralfest.com.au

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MEDIA STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Finalists Announced for
The Wilderness Gallery 2008
International MURAL FEST**

The mural artists who will be competing in the week long mural painting competition in Sheffield have been chosen from a record number of entrants, including several entries from overseas.

Now in its sixth year "***The Wilderness Gallery 2008 International Mural Fest***" is an iconic mural painting event that is popular with both artists and visiting tourists, and this year has attracted entries from several international mural artists.

The finalists were chosen based on miniature submissions (420mm x 960mm) of their intended mural painting and which depicts their interpretation of the poem "The Gathering" by Kentish poet Marc Wasley. Judging was close due to the high calibre of all the entries.

The overseas finalists include Tom Ewing from Scotland, USA muralist Alan Leon and Marc Spijkerbosch from New Zealand. Local artists have also made it into the frame with Pat Kirkcaldy & Diana Dodson, Andrew Kruger (the 2007 People's Choice winner) and Paul Wood (2005 Judge's Award winner) representing Tasmania in the mural paint-off during Easter 2008. Patricia Smart, Kerry Nicholson and Frances Wregg will be making sure that NSW and Queensland get a crack at the top mural award too as they also have been chosen for the final round.

The response from one artist after going through to the final round – "I can't get the smile off my face!".

- **Patricia Smart**, from Bullaburra, NSW – mural artist for 19 years for whom painting is both a profession as well as a passion. (www.becsmart.com.au)
- **Frances & Colin Wregg**, Westlake, Queensland – Frances is a professional mural artist with 15 years experience and many public art commissions from government and community organisations.
- **Marc Spijkerbosch**, Rotorua, New Zealand – award winning mural artist and an expert in Trompe l’oeil, who has been commissioned for many public art works and murals around the world. (www.murals.co.nz)
- **Kerry Nicholson**, Greenmount, Queensland – has made a living painting for the last 30 years and painted over 5000 murals.
- **Alan Leon**, Oakland, California, USA – artist, muralist, landscape architect with many public mural commissions in the USA (www.alanleon.org)
- **Paul Wood**, Devonport, Tasmania – winner of the 2005 Mural Fest Judges Award. Some of his commissioned murals can be viewed around Sheffield and on buildings along the North West coast of Tasmania.
- **Andrew Kruger**, Paradise, Tasmania – this self taught artist has had a meteoric rise, winning the People’s Choice award in the 2007 Mural Fest.
- **Tom Ewing**, Prestonpans, Scotland – artist and muralist with several commissioned public art works in Scotland (www.tomewing.co.uk)
- **Pat Kirkcaldy & Diana Dodson**, Sheffield, Tasmania – Pat is a self taught and experienced artist, well known for her portraiture and wildlife pictures. Diana is a fine artist, past participant in Mural Fest and co-painter of the Sheffield Working Art Space’s own historical mural.

FAST FACTS ABOUT MURAL FEST

Date of paint-off between nine finalists: 23rd to 29th March 2008

Location: Mural Park, Sheffield

Judges Award : \$6000

People’s Choice Award : \$2000

Visitors Award : \$1000

All finalists receive: \$500

Murals are 2100mm high by 4800mm.

Mural Fest web site www.muralfest.com.au

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