



Sheffield International Mural Fest

PO Box 169 SHEFFIELD TAS 7306
www.muralfest.com.au

January 11th, 2009

MEDIA STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Finalists Announced for

The Wilderness Gallery 2009 International Mural Fest

The mural artists who will be competing in the week long mural painting competition in Sheffield have been chosen for the 2009 Paint Off.

Now in its seventh year "*The Wilderness Gallery 2009 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 all across Australia and California, U.S.A.

The finalists were chosen based on miniature submissions (420mm x 960mm) of their intended mural painting and which depicts their interpretation of the poem "Fire and Life" by Cindy Bennett.

Our overseas finalist coming from the USA is Artist Jose Loza. Local artists have also made it into the frame with John Eathorne, Gillian Robnik Winner of the 2007 Mural Fest, Pat Kirkcaldy (2008 Finalist), Jeanette Edwards & Nadia Mitchell, Chery Sims will be leading the Lighthouse Project Team and Andrew & Caroline Kruger 2007 & 08 Finalists winning both the Visitors Choice & People's Choice award for 2007, all representing Tasmania in the mural paint-off during Easter 2009. Paul Scott, Malcolm Drysdale 2007 Mural Fest Finalist, Kerry & Malcolm Nicholson will be making sure that WA, Victoria and Queensland get a crack at the top mural award too as they also have been chosen for the final round.

- **JOHN EATHORNE - ROWELLS, TAS**, – has 30 years experience as a freelance commercial artist. Murals, prints, portraiture etc. Public mural commissions in NZ, QLD, NT and England. John has been a Tassie resident for 2 years.
- **PAUL SCOTT - SCARBOROUGH, WA** – Paul has his Diploma in Cartooning and illustration. Paul heads his own company "Paul's cartoons and Illustration. Commissioned paintings both domestic and commercial. Detailed caricatures, portraits, landscape, cartoons & illustrations. Murals include – Paddington Ale House (Pub Alfresco over 40ft wide.) Subiaco Football Club (WAFL, player of the century mural, 23 players over 100 years).
- **GILLIAN ROBNIK – SUNNYSIDE, TAS** - Tutored many Arts Council and Adult Education classes in ceramics, watercolours and silk painting. Opened her own gallery "Windrush" in 1991 and was an exhibitor and founding member of Lalla Road Fine Craft. Gillian has a



long career as a multi

media artist, works in oils, acrylics, watercolours, ceramics, glass and silk. Selected artist in Lilydale's Painted Poles project. Winner of the 2007 Mural Fest. Her work is held in many private collections locally & worldwide.

- **MALCOLM DRYSDALE – MACLEOD, VIC** - Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Social Science, Diploma of Criminology, Bachelor of Arts. Conducted Seminars in Art History, Art Appreciation, 19th Century Art and Colour theory along with Art workshops in watercolour and colour theory. Lecturer in Social Science – including developing & teaching “Culture & Creativity”. Written, published and illustrated children’s books. Malcolm has participated in many Group & Solo exhibitions. 2007 Mural Fest finalist.
- **JOSE LOZA – LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA** - Born in Mexico, lived in Long Beach since 1983. Over the last 9 years Jose has worked as a free lance artist doing commercial, fine art & working on over 30 murals in and around Southern California. Works for the city of Long Beach’s Mural and Cultural Arts Program, co-ordinating youth workshops, mural conservation/restoration and mural production. Currently working on designing a mural for the city of Long Beach and commissioned by the El Dorado Audubon Society, to paint educational paintings. A portfolio of his work can be seen at www.lpmurals.com
- **KERRY & MALCOLM NICHOLSON – QLD** (brothers) - Malcolm & Kerry have worked together for many years. Started off producing mass production paintings that they would sell door to door. Then ventured into painting Video Stores windows to advertise their movies. Duck Graphics was formed and by the time the bottom had fallen out of the video industry they had established themselves as sign manufacturers. Along the way they have painted many murals and have built up a rapport that allows them to both equally contribute to the relationship. Both artists in their own right but because of many years working together work well as a team.
- **PAT KIRKCALDY, JEANETTE EDWARDS & NADIA MITCHELL – SHEFFIELD, TAS**
Pat – for the past 7 years has been serious about her art. She has exhibited at many different venues, selling much of her work. She has a home art studio open to the public at Roland. Finalist with Diana Dodson in 2008 Mural Fest
Jeanette – After moving to Tasmania and being inspired by the beautiful area and local artists, Jeanette joined The Working Art Space. Having painted and done craftwork for the last 20 years, she renewed her interest in painting and has exhibited at The Working Art Space.
Nadia – Drawing was a natural part of Nadia’s childhood. (Daughter of Pat) Went to TAFE to further her skills. She enjoys most mediums & does commissions. Also a member of The Working Art Space she participated in the group mural by TWAS in Mural Fest 2006.
- **CHERY SIMS, LEADING THE LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT TEAM – DEVONPORT, TAS** Diploma – Art, Craft & Design, currently Artist in Residence, Lighthouse Project, working with 22 students and co workers painting murals at 4 Ways, Devonport. Young at Art Project – PCYC Devonport City Council, painting murals and doing Mosaic with Primary students at Latrobe Primary School. Has accepted commissions for paintings and murals for both commercial & private. Participated in Group Exhibitions and also as a member of TWAS participated in the 2006 Group Mural at Mural Fest.



The Wilderness Gallery

Cradle Mountain Tasmania



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- **ANDREW & CAROLINE**

Advanced Diploma of Advertising and Graphic Design, Certificate 1V in Interactive Design (Multimedia), Certificate II in Colour Management. Participated in many Exhibitions, winning many awards. Their work is held in many private collections both in Australia & Overseas. Mural Fest finalist in 2007 & 2008 winning both Visitors Choice & People's Choice award for 2007 mural.

KRUGER – PARADISE, TAS -

FAST FACTS ABOUT MURAL FEST

Date of paint-off between nine finalists: 12th – 18th April 2009
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.

Brushes Down: 1pm, Saturday 18th April

Winners Announcement: 5pm at the Sheffield Town Hall

Celebration Dance from 6pm on, at the Sheffield Town Hall. Free event.

Wondering what you might get up to in Sheffield between "Brushes down" and the Announcement of the winners for 2009?

Currently in its final stages of planning a new event will be entering the Sheffield Calendar. ***Taste of The North West.*** This inaugural event will show case the culinary delights the North West has to offer. From local wineries, breweries and off course the wonderful local produce. ***Taste of the North West will be taking place in Sheffield on Saturday 18th April, 2009 from 11am – 4pm.*** (For further information in relation to Taste of the North West, please contact Phil Dolan on (03) 6497 2156 or whiterock_V@bigpond.com)

Mural Fest web site www.muralfest.com.au

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