Judge of the 2011 Stan and Maureen Duke Gold Coast Art Prize, artist Davida Allen, has selected 69 finalists for this year’s prestigious exhibition. From a field of almost 350, the selected entries offer a diverse sampling of contemporary Australian art practice. The Prize exhibition will feature at the Gold Coast City Gallery from 10th December 2011 to 5th February 2012, with the official opening on Saturday 10th December.

There is a strong focus on the relationship between man-made and natural structures, as well as the future of the Australian environment. Wasteland by Gold Coast artist Steve Tyerman is an imagined landscape littered with colourful debris. Jason Nelson, another Gold Coast artist employs new technology in video art to highlight the tenuous and fragile nature of Australia’s east coast.

The traditional genre of landscape has been modified by several artists. Edward Niznik’s painting is an abstract rendering of the relationship between agricultural fields and man-made structures. Nick Muir paints broad flat planes of colour which give the landscape a different sense of reality, and the work hums with the title New Blue Jeans.

Over half of the works selected are paintings. Nic Plowman brutally subverts the delicacy of watercolour through his investigations into masculine relations via violence. Samara Adamson-Pinczewski relies on the interaction of modular forms in space to create a dizzying and disorienting image. She translates these to two-dimensional imagery which shares a resonance with architectural forms. Dean Brown voyeuristically records human interaction in time and space from an unusual perspective in his painting In passing.

A spectrum of sculptural, fabric and paper materials will be on display.

Through a scaled down wooden carving of London’s Tower Bridge, Alan Jones explores the uneasy tension between his own pride as a descendant of a first fleet convict and the shameful treatment of Indigenous Australians during the colonial period to the present day. Sherrie Knipe’s plywood Baggushka compares the meditative and simple world of sculpture with the excessive consumerism of the everyday. Gold Coast based artist Erica Gray’s entry is a soft sculpture which refers to her childhood. Sarah Beetsone, another Gold Coast artist has entered a giant digitally printed, hand painted embellished quilt, which is the product of an investigation into her obsession with film and the effect this has on her dreams.

This year sees the inaugural $5,000 People’s Choice Award sponsored by 19 Karen Contemporary Artspace, Gold Coast. Director Terri Lew explained that her motivation for the generous cash prize was ‘to attract more emerging artists to participate (in the exhibition) and to boost their confidence that they deserve to win or at least become finalists.’

With 13 Gold Coast artists, in addition to emerging, mid-career and established artists from all over the country who range in age from early twenties to septuagenarians, working in photography, painting, sculpture, works on paper and video art this exhibition is truly an all encompassing representation of contemporary Australian art.

2011 Prize Judge Davida Allen is an Archibald prize-winning artist. She is represented in the National Gallery of Australia, most major Australian state galleries and the Museum of Modern Art, New York. Apart from being a published author, Allen has also received awards for her film writing and directing. With over thirty years experience in the art industry, Allen brings a wealth of knowledge to her role as judge.
SELECTED ARTISTS

Katka ADAMS
Samara ADAMSON-PINCEWSKI
Sue ANDERSON
Kim BARTER
Sarah BEETSON
Sabine BLODORN
Dean BROWN
Thomas BUCHANAN
Gavin CAWTHORN
Veronica CAY
Jun CHEN
Mario CIONI
Simon COLLINS
Joanne CURRIE NALINGU
Dagmar CYRULLA
Laurindo DeABREU SOTO
Jesse DOLMAN
Shannon DOYLE
Stefan DUNLOP
Antoinette EDMUNDS
Wendy EPP
Sally GABORI
Justin GARNSWORTHY

Erica GRAY
Ginny GRAYSON
Kai HAGBERG
Steven HALL
Rew HANKS
Harumi HAYASHI
Pei Pei HE
Kristin HEADLAM
Steve HILLIER
John HONEYWILL
Midge JOHANSEN
Alan JONES
Megan JONES
Sherrie KNIPE
Josie KUNOTH PETYARRE
Elizabeth LAMONT
Chris LANGLOIS
Wendy LOEFLER
Margaret LOY PULA
Michael MUIR
Jason NELSON
Edward NIZNIK
David PAVICH

Graeme PEEBLES
Sonya G PETERS
Nic PLOWMAN
Darren PORTER
POTTS
Michelle PUJOL
Matthew QUICK
Sally ROBINSON
Joseph ROLELLA
Sylvia SCHWENK
Simone SKROBAR
Peter SMETS
Ben SMITH
John SMITH
Ian SMITH
Christophe STIBIO
Steve TYERMAN
Mirre VAN DALEN
Ian WALDRON
Jodie WELLS
Di WEST
Fiona WHITE
Margaret WILSON

The Gold Coast Art Prize was established in 1968, making it one of the longest running acquisitive art prizes in Australia. Known as the Conrad Jupiters Gold Coast Art Prize for over a decade, retired surgeon Dr Stan Duke became sponsor of the award in 2007. Although Duke sadly passed away in 2008 his support has enabled an outright prize purse of $10,000 to be awarded with an additional $20,000 available for acquisitions to the growing city collection.

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$5,000 People’s Choice Award sponsored by 19Karen Contemporary Artspace: