

Media Release

Date: Friday 20 June, 2014

The National Photographic Portrait Prize 2014

Faces from across Australia are on display at Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, in one of the country's most important photography exhibitions, the **National Photographic Portrait Prize 2014**. Works by forty-five finalists are on show, selected from over fourteen hundred entries by professional and aspiring portrait photographers, including this year's winner of the \$25,000 prize itself – Andrew Cowen's portrait of renowned cartoonist Matthew Martin.

The National Photographic Portrait Prize was established by the National Portrait Gallery to reflect the distinct vision of Australia's portrait photographers as well as the unique nature of their subjects, recognising that photography is the dominant portrait medium of our time.

This year's exhibition includes images of young and old, rich and poor, famous faces and everyday personalities. Featuring sport and the arts, politicians and students, the **National Photographic Portrait Prize 2014** is a truly diverse cross-section of our nation's people.

The judges for the **National Photographic Portrait Prize 2014** included Dr Sarah Engledow, National Portrait Gallery Historian and Curator; Dr Chris Chapman, National Portrait Gallery Senior Curator; and guest judge, acclaimed Australian photographer Greg Weight.

In their awarding statement, these judges noted that "this year's Prize was diverse as usual. Throughout the selection process, the photographic portraits that continued to rise to the top told us something deep about the sitter. We were looking for portraits that gave a strong sense of the person depicted... The winning portrait is striking in its minimalism and it shows a cloudy complexity of thinking – the person in the portrait is looking outwards and inwards."

The **National Photographic Portrait Prize 2014** will be officially launched at Wagga Wagga Art Gallery on Friday 27 June, at 6pm. The exhibition will be open to the public from Saturday 21 June until Sunday 3 August, 2014.

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A National Portrait Gallery Exhibition.

Supported by the National Collecting Institutions Touring and Outreach Program, an Australian Government program aiming to improve access to the national collections for all Australians.