

MEDIA ALERT: 26 October 2017
ASHLEY FROST WINS VIEWERS' CHOICE AWARD
2017 MOSMAN ART PRIZE



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Sydney: Ashley Frost (NSW) has won **The Viewers' Choice 2017 Mosman Art Prize** with *Tradies Sublime*, a richly layered and colourful painting that pays quiet homage to the humble worker whose early morning starts regularly witness perhaps the best and most visually beautiful time of the day – sunrise.

Congratulating Frost on his win, John Cheeseman, Director Mosman Art Gallery said, “Ashley’s urban morning landscape was the clear winner at this year’s Viewers' Choice. With Mosman Art Prize showcasing the best examples of contemporary painting in Australia, this annual exhibition continues to draw large attendances and significant public support. We’ve hosted near to 12,000 visitors this year and there is no thought of the Prize slowing down, especially as it celebrates its 70th year.”

The Mosman Art Society has once again generously supported this award with a \$1000 cash prize.

On hearing the news Thirroul based Frost said, “It is an honour to receive this award from the Mosman Art Society and I’m grateful to Mosman Council and the Art Gallery for their continued support of this highly recognised national art prize and its bringing together of artists, art and audiences.”

The 2017 Mosman Art Prize presented 88 finalists from over 750 entries across Australia. This year’s guest judge Kirsten Paisley, Deputy Director, National Gallery of Australia, awarded the major acquisitive prize of \$50,000 to Sydney artist, Jumaadi for his multi-panelled work, “Some kind of record”.

Celebrating 70 years in 2017, Mosman Art Prize is the longest running, continuous municipal art prize in Australia. Proud of its rich history in fostering emerging and established artists the Prize is Mosman Art Gallery’s flagship annual exhibition.

2017 Mosman Art Prize exhibition runs to Sunday 29 October - closing at 3pm.

Open daily 10am – 5pm. Free admission.

Mosman Art Gallery, 1 Art Gallery Way, Mosman, NSW, 2088

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EDITOR'S NOTES:

2017 MOSMAN ART PRIZE – VIEWERS' CHOICE AWARD

WINNER: ASHLEY FROST, *Tradies Sublime*, 2017, oil on board, 120 x 137 cm

Viewers' Choice Sponsored by The Mosman Art Society

ARTIST STATEMENT:

"This is a painting of the early morning 'sublime' light from Bannerman Street Cremorne. I regularly paint *plein air* from a number of locations around the harbour in Mosman, NSW. I am currently working towards a show with Mosman Art Gallery that opens this December, *Bush to Bay: Hinton and the artist camps*, that looks at the early artists' camps of Mosman Bay and the role artists such as Arthur Streeton and Tom Roberts played in developing a notion of the Australian Sublime.

It was on a visit to the artist camps earlier this year at around 6am I came across this stunning sunrise in Bannerman Street, Cremorne. I immediately stopped the car and took a photo, made a few quick sketches and colour notes. I then returned to my studio later that day and painted a smaller study and from this started work on the larger piece that you see in this year's Mosman Art Prize.

The title refers to the sublime light that we witness at this time of day and how so often it is the tradesmen - who are everywhere on the roads at this time of day rushing to get to their worksites by 7am - who get to see these sublime sunrises. It's also a play on the idea that the notion of the sublime can be a highly academic term in art theory and how it is in fact the humble 'tradies' who often get to see these fleetingly beautiful moments of the day.

I grew up in Mosman and Cremorne until I moved down the coast to Thirroul where I now live with my two children and wife, and paint from my studio in Bulli. I still love my visits to Mosman and think it's my favourite place in Sydney."

ABOUT ASHLEY FROST:

Born in Sydney, Ashley Frost studied at the National Art School, BFA 1992. His recent urban and cityscape works, in both oil on board and mixed media on paper, evoke the diversity, colour and convergence of urban elements around some of our major cities; the curious and vibrant places, where the city's periphery converges with the inner suburbs; at the anomalous moment where day ends and night begins. The series is developed from landscape studies centered on the cities of Sydney, New York, Beijing, Melbourne, Hong Kong and Brasilia where the artist has been conducting research and exhibiting his work. Frost is often seen painting or drawing *plein air* on roadsides or atop of buildings, capturing the first or last of the day's light.

Ashley Frost has exhibited since 1996 with three solo shows in New York (2000, 2002 & 2004), and numerous group and solo exhibitions in Sydney and Melbourne. In 2003 he won the Kings Art Prize (Acquisitive). In 2004 Frost was artist-in-residence aboard the MV Orlova, which sailed to Antarctica. Frost has also received numerous grants from the Ministry for the Arts and has worked on many community and public art projects, including Warilla Federation Local History Public Art Project and Heritage Walk Shellharbour. Frost is a regular finalist in national art prizes including this year's Mosman Art Prize, 2017 NSW Parliament Plein Air Painting Prize, 2017 Eutick Memorial Still Life Award (EMSLA) and the 2017 Archibald Prize with this portrait of painter Janet Dawson.

Ashley Frost is represented by Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney and ZZHK Gallery, Hong Kong.

