

Countryscapes Winner Profiles

2003 to 2009

\$35,000 Country Energy Art Prize for Landscape Painting

2003 WINNER'S PROFILE

Ian Bettinson – Bathurst, Central West New South Wales

Artwork: Degrees of abstraction

Ian completed his formal studies at London's Wimbledon School of Arts and has lived in Australia since 1981. He gave up teaching at the National Art School in 2003 to concentrate on his art and explore regional New South Wales in his campervan "studio".

On hearing about the \$35,000 Country Energy Art Prize for Landscape Painting, Ian knew instantly that his entry would come from the body of work created during a two-month stint in Kinchega National Park, south of Broken Hill, in September/October 2002.

The time spent in Kinchega rekindled Ian's love of the Australian landscape, as he knew he had "found a very special place".



2004 WINNER'S PROFILE

Guy Gilmour from Coramba

Artwork : New Moon and XPT



Guy has a Bachelor of Arts (Fine Arts) from the City Art Institute (now NSW College of Fine Arts) and has been a full-time artist since 1981. He has built his career on regularly exhibiting in Sydney, Brisbane and regional New South Wales.

Guy says he has painted for as long as he can remember. His winning painting – entitled New Moon and XPT – represents the view from his kitchen at night, looking out over the Orara Valley.

"It's what I see while making dinner each night.

Guy said winning the \$35,000 Country Energy Art Prize for Landscape Painting was the biggest achievement of his career.

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2005 WINNER'S PROFILE

Fiona Bennell from Mullaway
Artwork : Silent Protest



Fiona's main interests lay in the interaction of colours and shapes and expressions of environmental and spiritual issues.

"Most of my works are created from within and my best works often occur spontaneously and can change several times throughout one painting", she said.

Fiona was originally trained as an architect with this training having a large influence on her early works of cities and townscapes. She has since expanded into landscapes and animals.

She has private collections in Australia, UK, Germany, Japan and America.

2006 WINNER'S PROFILE

Joanna Logue – Oberon, Central West New South Wales
Artwork: Conifer – Braidwood

Born in Scone in 1964, Joanna has studied at City Institute in Sydney and has had numerous solo and group exhibitions in metropolitan and regional NSW, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory.

Her paintings are a journey through space, with tree lines and horizons characteristic of the country near her home in Oberon. The work plays with visual contrasts – creating a paradox between the figurative and the abstract.

She has received several awards, including the 2000 Kings Contemporary Art Prize, and her work is represented in an array of national collections, including NSW University, Qantas, Walker Corporation Ltd, Australian Art Investment Trust, NRMA and Macquarie Bank.

Joanna was a finalist in this Art Prize in 2004.



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2007 WINNER'S PROFILE

Tim Winters of Stuart Town

Artwork : Bare Bones / Channel Country



Tim, who has entered the prize since its inception in 2003, was elated by the win and thrilled that his art had attracted the eye of overall judge, artist Peter Kingston.

Much of Tim's art is inspired by the natural beauty of his own backyard and is reflective of his travels throughout the Darling region and the central west.

A resident of Stuart Town for the past 26 years, Tim originally hails from London and has also lived in Sydney where he worked as a designer and artist. His works are primarily stimulated by his travels in Japan, France, Italy and Australia with a strong landscape element.

He acknowledges the support he has received from the Orange, Bathurst and Dubbo regional art galleries where his work has regularly featured, but admits that pursuing his career path can sometimes be difficult due to his isolation from the metropolitan area.

2008 WINNER'S PROFILE

Gail English of Crescent Head

Artwork: Last Years Crops.

Gail started her career full-time when she was in her fifties. Since then she has had many solo exhibitions and now has many collections around Australia. In 2007 she travelled overseas for a solo exhibition in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Living on the coast, Gail looks to water and the ocean for inspiration. Prior to that her influence came from the landscape where she was raised.

"I am instinctively drawn back to the landscape of wheat crops near Young, the patterns and the soft colours left on the earth after harvest.

"I now live on the coast and Country Energy has provided a wonderful and generous way of rethinking that landscape and inspiring me each year to enter this art prize," Gail said.

Gail was a finalist in the Country Energy Art Prize in 2003, 2005 and 2007.



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2009 WINNER'S PROFILE

Graham Lupp, Bathurst
Artwork : Hen and Chicken Lane

Graham has been painting full-time since 1984 and has had over 40 solo exhibitions. His work is in public and private collections in Australia and overseas, including both State and Federal Parliament Houses and the National Gallery of Victoria.

Hen and Chicken Lane is a depiction of a hillside near Perthville, south of Bathurst. It displays the hillside as it is in the afternoon, when the sky has turned a soft lilac colour and the hill front transforms into a hot burnt orange.

Graham was a Countryscapes finalist in 2007 and 2008.

"I have come to enjoy the challenge and excitement of this annual contest. It is refreshing to see the great diversity of work each year – Country Energy continues to lead the way in fostering the cultural development of rural NSW," Graham said.

