

ART AWARD JUDGING POLICY AND PROCEDURES

INTRODUCTION

The Koorie Heritage Trust (**KHT**) is committed to promoting, supporting and celebrating the continuing journey of the First Peoples of Southeastern Australia through the presentation of artistic and cultural exhibitions. For more than 50 years, it has facilitated the sharing of Victorian First Peoples art and culture with community audiences and the wider public through exhibitions of artworks, cultural belongings and historic archives.

PURPOSE

To support the KHT's commitment to fostering the careers of emerging, mid-career and established Victorian First Peoples artists, performers and other creative practitioners through exhibitions that may include art prizes or awards with an associated monetary value.

POLICY

To ensure the integrity, fairness and transparency of the judging process, this policy establishes the principles governing the appointment of judges and the assessment of artworks in KHT art prize exhibitions. This policy is to be read in conjunction with other policies of the KHT with particular reference to the Exhibition Policy

PROCEDURES

1. Three independent judges will normally be appointed by the KHT's Curatorial Team and approved by the CEO. Additional judges may be appointed where required, including where a sponsor has negotiated representation on the judging panel for a specific sponsored award. Such judges will participate only in judging that sponsored award and not in the determination of any other awards. Should a judge withdraw prior to completion of the judging process, the CEO may appoint a replacement judge in consultation with the Curatorial Team.
2. A general principle of the KHT is that all judges will be excluded from submitting an artwork into the exhibition to be considered for an art prize.
3. There may be instances where a judge, whose representation within the exhibition itself will lend prestige to the exhibition, may be considered eligible to enter a work as a "Guest Artist". In this instance however, the work(s) will not be eligible for any award. However, such works may be made available for sale. Where this does occur, the participation of that judge as a "Guest Artist" and their ineligibility for any prizes, will be made clear in any exhibition collateral including call for entry forms, room guides/catalogues, wall labels next to the work, and in all associated and relevant media and communications.
4. All reasonable efforts will be made to appoint judges who is a Victorian-based First People. This does not preclude the appointment of First Peoples guest judge from another state, or a non-First Peoples judge whose expertise or professional standing would enhance the profile or credibility of the exhibition. In all cases, the majority of judges must be First Peoples.
5. Acknowledging the close community and family relationships within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, the KHT acknowledges that it will be difficult to appoint a First Peoples judge with no connection to an exhibiting artist (whether through

immediate or extended family connection, community or language group). Prior to judging, all judges will be required to declare any actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest. Where the KHT considers that a conflict may compromise the integrity of the judging process, it may require the judge to abstain from assessing a particular artwork or, in exceptional circumstances, withdraw from the judging panel.

6. The KHT will appoint judges whom it considers capable of exercising independent judgement, professional integrity and impartiality throughout the assessment process.
7. Membership of the KHT Board does not, of itself, make a person ineligible to serve as a judge. However, KHT employees, including the CEO, are not eligible to serve as judges.
8. Judging will, wherever practicable, be conducted anonymously, with identifying information removed from entries. The KHT acknowledges, however, that judges may recognise the distinctive artistic style of established artists.
9. Artworks will be assessed against the published award criteria and on their artistic merit. The KHT acknowledges that artistic assessment is inherently subjective. The decision of the judging panel is final and no correspondence or appeals will be entered into.
10. Where multiple award categories are offered (for example, Painting, Photography or 3D), an artwork may be eligible for both a category award and any overall exhibition award.
11. The KHT reserves the right to refuse entry to works that:
 - are unlawful;
 - infringe copyright or cultural and intellectual property rights;
 - contain defamatory material;
 - are inconsistent with the values or purpose of the exhibition; or
 - are reasonably considered by the Koorie Heritage Trust's Curatorial Team, in consultation with the CEO, to be inappropriate for public exhibition.

Where appropriate, advice may also be sought from a First Peoples member of the KHT Board or another suitably First Peoples adviser.

12. Judges will be expected to treat all deliberations, discussions and scoring as confidential and will not disclose the outcome of judging prior to the official announcement of the awards.
13. The KHT will maintain appropriate records of the judging process, including declarations of conflicts of interest and the appointment of judges. Individual judges' scoring sheets and deliberations will remain confidential unless required by law.