



LUKE CORNISH WINS 2024 GALLIPOLI ART PRIZE WITH 'THE PITY OF WAR'



2024 Gallipoli Art Prize winner Luke Cornish with his winning work 'The Pity of War'.
Photo Cynthia Sciberras. [Download High Res.](#)

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Celebrated stencil artist Luke Cornish has won the 2024 Gallipoli Art Prize with his powerful work ['The Pity of War'](#) depicting a woman and a hooded figure huddled together wearing gas masks. Cornish describes the work as "a contemporary reinterpretation of Michelangelo's iconic 'La Pietà', reimagined to convey the profound sorrow experienced by mothers who have lost their children to the ravages of war."

"By invoking the spirit of Michelangelo's masterpiece, I seek to pay homage to the enduring power of art to illuminate the human condition. 'The Pity of War' serves as a poignant reminder of the futility of violence and the urgent need for peace, encouraging reflection on the true cost of war and the imperative of compassion and understanding in our world," Cornish says in his accompanying artist statement.

[[Read Luke Cornish's full artist statement here](#)]

Luke Cornish (also known as E.L.K) is an award-winning artist, known for his irreverent brand of photo realistic stencil art that has garnered him global acclaim. In 2012 Cornish was the first stencil artist to become a finalist in the Archibald Prize with his portrait of Father Bob McGuire. Cornish has been an Archibald finalist three times, including this year. His work is all done by hand, cutting out sheets of recycled acetate with a scalpel and building up hundreds of layers of aerosol paint, until the works take on a photographic quality.

Growing up in Canberra, Cornish worked as a sign writer and labourer before taking up stencil art as a hobby in the early-2000s. He has won numerous art prizes and exhibited his work across Australia and in major international cultural centres. His work is held in public and private collections around the world, including his portrait of former Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke, which was acquired by the National Portrait Gallery of Australia. Cornish continues to make street art on the streets of Sydney and his adopted home of Wollongong.

Cornish has made multiple visits to Syria, Lebanon and Iran. In early 2017 he co-founded 'For Syrias Children' charity organisation, which works in conjunction with non-government organisations on the ground in Syria, raising funds for Syrian children affected by conflict.

The 2024 Gallipoli Art Prize judges also highly commended Kate Stevens for her work ['Witness'](#), a portrait of Dusty Miller, whistleblower and former SAS medic who served with Australia's Special Forces in Afghanistan and who gave testimony to the IGADF Afghanistan war crimes inquiry.

"Dusty and the other veterans who spoke at great personal cost about what they witnessed have done the nation a great service; showing courage and loyalty in upholding the qualities which Australians could and should aspire to," Stevens said in her accompanying artist statement.

[[Read Kate Stevens full artist statement here](#)]

Now in its 19th year, the \$20,000 Gallipoli Art Prize, auspiced by the Gallipoli Memorial Club, invites artists to respond openly to the broad themes of loyalty, respect, love of country, courage, comradeship, community, peace and freedom as expressed in the [Gallipoli Memorial Club's creed](#).

THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB CREED: "We believe that within the community there exists an obligation for all to preserve the special qualities of loyalty, respect, love of country, courage and comradeship which were personified by the heroes of the Gallipoli Campaign and bequeathed to all humanity as a foundation for perpetual peace and universal freedom".

Judging for this year's Prize was conducted by Jane Watters, Barry Pearce, Elizabeth Fortescue and John Robertson, representing the Gallipoli Memorial Club. Previous winners of the Gallipoli Art Prize include celebrated artists Idris Murphy (2014), Jiawei Shen (2016) and Steve Lopes (2018). Renowned artist Andrew Tomkins won the 2023 Gallipoli Art Prize with 'Ray's Room', a poignant work inspired by his uncle who served in Bougainville in 1945.

Exhibition

The 2024 Gallipoli Art Prize will be on exhibition at 6-8 Atherden Street, The Rocks, Sydney from 18 April to 12 May, 2024.

To view the works online visit www.gallipoliartprize.org.au.



2024 Gallipoli Art Prize Winner: **'The Pity Of War'** by Luke Cornish
Aerosol/Acrylic on canvas. 122 x 91 cm.
[Download high res.](#)



2024 Gallipoli Art Prize Highly Commended: **'Witness'** by Kate Stevens.
Oil and Acrylic on canvas. 41 x 112cm.
[Download high res.](#)

2024 Gallipoli Art Prize

Winner: Luke Cornish ['The Pity of War'](#)

Highly Commended: Kate Stevens ['Witness'](#)

2024 Gallipoli Art Prize Finalists

Andrew Littlejohn	<i>Caught in the Midst</i>
Andrew Tomkins	<i>Chowne's Rest</i>
Barry Clarke	<i>The Right Stuff</i>
Edgar Gambin	<i>A Diggers Diary</i>
Elizabeth McCarthy	<i>The Capture of AE2</i>
Geoff Harvey	<i>Worthy Allies</i>
Geoffrey Jones	<i>Splendour Rock</i>
Gulcan Gunes	<i>Ataturk's Message</i>
Hayley Hamilton	<i>A Hostile Shore</i>
Jenii Mac	<i>Loyalty Knows No Bounds</i>
Joan Lewis	<i>The Empty Chair</i>
John Butler	<i>V529 - Timmy's Blanket</i>
John Martin	<i>Tiwi Heroes and the Butterfly Effect</i>
John Richardson	<i>Gallipoli - Past and Present</i>
John Skillington	<i>The Red Cross</i>
Jue Min Zhang	<i>My Son Goes to War</i>
Julian Thompson	<i>The Deployment</i>
Julianne Allcorn	<i>The Letterpress Tray</i>
Kate Stevens	<i>Witness</i>
Kim Baldwin	<i>He Ain't Heavy</i>
Lori Pensini	<i>Weeping Woman</i>
Louis Pratt	<i>The Wounded Soldier</i>
Luke Cornish	<i>The Pity of War</i>
Margaret Hadfield	<i>Comradeship and Grief</i>
Nicole Martin	<i>Malaria, Search for Their Story</i>
Penelope Oates	<i>Unbreakable Bonds</i>
Peter McCarty	<i>Building Material</i>
Peter Whitehead	<i>Darkness</i>
Phillip Brooks	<i>Credence</i>
Richard Crossland	<i>Slouch Hat and Swallows</i>
Robert Hammill	<i>Last Mission</i>
Ross Townsend	<i>Reflecting in Silence</i>
Sarah Anthony	<i>The Jigsaw</i>
Sue Jarvis	<i>Servicing an RAAF Hudson Bomber, NT, 1943</i>
Sylvie Carter	<i>Last Mission - Honouring F/O James Joseph Battle and F/O Alfred Campbell Briant</i>
Tülin Ciddi	<i>To Live and Let Live</i>

[View all 2024 finalists here](#)

Gallipoli Art Prize Previous Winners

2006	Margaret Hadfield	<i>Ataturk's legacy</i>
2007	Lianne Gough	<i>Glurus fallen</i>
2008	Tom Carment	<i>Max Carment, War Veteran (the last Portrait)</i>
2009	Euan Macleod	<i>Smoke/Pink landscape/Shovel</i>
2010	Raymond Arnold	<i>The dead march here today</i>
2011	Hadyn Wilson	<i>Sacrifice</i>
2012	Geoff Harvey	<i>Trench interment</i>
2013	Peter Wegner	<i>Dog with Gas Mask</i>
2014	Idris Murphy	<i>Gallipoli Evening 2013</i>
2015	Sally Robinson	<i>Boy Soldiers</i>
2016	Jiawei Shen	<i>Yeah, Mate!</i>
2017	Amanda Penrose Hart	<i>The Sphinx, Perpetual Peace</i>
2018	Steve Lopes	<i>Exposed Wood, Mont St Quentin</i>
2019	Martin King	<i>War Pigeon Diaries</i>
2020	Alison Mackay	<i>Breathe</i>
2021	Geoff Harvey	<i>Forgotten Heroes</i>
2022	Deidre Bean	<i>Along the ride to Damascus</i>
2023	Andrew Tomkins	<i>Ray's Room</i>

[View previous winners here](#)

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Media Assets

For high res photos, etc

2024 Winner and Highly Commended please [[CLICK HERE](#)]

2024 Finalists please [[CLICK HERE](#)]

