

Announced 29<sup>th</sup> February at the gala launch of the Stanthorpe Art Prize 08 in front of a crowd of over 250, came the announcement that Sydney artist Kim-Anh Nguyen was winner of the \$15,000 acquisitive prize.

Her already popular black and white sculptural relief work, titled *Ethereal*, made from Southern Ice Porcelain is now an important addition to the Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery's permanent collection.

In an exciting twist, an artwork Nguyen originally considered entering into the prize was recently purchased at Sydney's Freeland Gallery by Australian actor Nicole Kidman.

"Underlying my work is a profound respect for the historical and cultural significance of indigenous people (the Montagnards or mountain people of Vietnam, and the Aboriginal people of Australia). Most of the works depict aspects of the landscape, which is crucial to all indigenous peoples", says Nguyen.

This year's SAP judge - Melbourne artist Andrew Sibley, says of her work "This is an iconographic work, very symbolic and, when the light shines through the porcelain petals...it's a joy to watch."

Also announced as winner of the \$1,000 Anne Lindsay & Associates Regional Emerging Art Award is Stanthorpe artist Fay Roselt for her work titled *The Blanket Show 1*, with Sibley commenting that "this is a powerful work with a creative use of fabrics".

Winner of the \$2,000 Most Outstanding 2D work went to Debra Hill for her "...very symbolic surrealist piece", a painting titled 'Leap', the \$2,000 3D category went to Terry Bouton's "clever, fascinating installation with a story to tell" titled 'Once Upon a Time'.

The inaugural \$500 'Vollies Pick' award sponsored by Pure Heaven Bodycare Factory was chosen by the many volunteers who assist the art gallery, with the majority vote going to Jeannette Stewart-Lewis for a both pertinent and outstanding portrait titled *Gulpilil "The Storyteller"*.

The current SAP is being pegged as classic, contemporary, educational and amazing; with over 200 other finalist works of art and an innovative roof installation designed by Tenterfield artist Christopher Humphreys, currently on display until 11<sup>th</sup> April. Gallery hours are weekdays 10 - 4, weekends 10 - 1, free admission.