

LOCAL CONTEMPORARY ARTPRIZE2026



Community Bank
Caloundra
Bendigo Bank



CALOUNDRA
Regional Gallery

Local Contemporary Art Prize 2026

Friends, Regional Gallery Caloundra Inc. is proud to present the Local Contemporary Art Prize 2026. This annual prize, originally known as Local Artist – Local Content, was started by Friends, Regional Gallery Caloundra Inc. ('Friends') in 2014.

The exhibition, now in its twelfth year, was renamed in 2024 to the Local Contemporary Art Prize, to broaden the criteria and invite our Sunshine Coast entrants to create artwork of their preferred content. Contemporary art reflects the here and now!

Friends aims to foster active links between the community, the Caloundra Regional Gallery and art practitioners. We support the gallery with fundraising initiatives, advocacy and in-kind assistance with events and programs that enhance the capacity of the gallery. Supporting the Local Contemporary Art Prize is part of our core business.

Contemporary art is defined less by a specific style and more by its engagement with current ideas, issues and technologies. Common themes may include identity (race, gender, sexuality), globalisation, the environment, politics, technology and social justice. Artists often respond directly to what's happening in the world.

Art, in its many forms, has the unique ability to challenge, inspire and connect us on a profound level. Whether the medium is painting, photography, textiles, ceramics, digital or installation, each piece tells a story – stories that reflect our past, present and future, and also the multitude of voices that make up our coastal and global narrative.

We are excited to see such a high-quality representation from across these many artforms in this year's Local Contemporary Art Prize 2026 entries.

Again, we are thrilled to provide a platform where local artists have the opportunity to bring forward innovative and thought-provoking pieces and we can't wait for you to witness how the Local Contemporary Art Prize 2026 finalists have interpreted, challenged and responded to the various themes that have inspired them this year.

In 2026, Friends have provided most of the sponsorship for this prize.

We believe our commitment to foster creativity and support the arts in our community ensures our practitioners have the opportunity to share their work with a broader audience, ultimately enriching us all.

Community Bank Caloundra - Bendigo Bank has again co-sponsored the People's Choice Award. Thank you for your belief in the power of art to inspire and connect.

And of course, we would like to thank all the Sunshine Coast-based artists who entered this year's Local Contemporary Art Prize. We would particularly like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the 40 art prize finalists! Your passion and dedication are at the heart of this exhibition and we are proud to showcase your remarkable works. This exhibition serves as a testament to your creative vision and the vibrant energy that defines contemporary art today.

We hope that the Local Contemporary Art Prize 2026 sparks new conversations, encourages reflection and inspires future generations of artists and art lovers alike.

Again, this year's exhibition is complemented by the Local Student Art Prize 2026, which showcases our emerging young artists here on the Sunshine Coast. Friends are sponsoring this year's Local Student Art Prize: our gratitude goes to our patron Marie Pigott for instigating such a wonderful initiative some years back.

Finally, thank you to our guest judges this year, Kerryanne Farrer (Local Contemporary Art Prize 2026) and Gillian Davies (Local Student Art Prize 2026).

Friends, Caloundra Regional Gallery Inc. is very proud to partner with the Caloundra Regional Gallery to present this wonderful collection of finalists' works – to showcase and celebrate the diverse work of the artists living here amongst us on the Sunshine Coast. This is truly a magnificent exhibition.

Enjoy, and don't forget to cast your vote for your favourite artwork in the People's Choice Award.

Fiona Heiner

President, Friends, Regional Gallery Caloundra

Director's introduction

Welcome to the Local Contemporary Art Prize 2026, one of the Sunshine Coast's most anticipated and celebrated annual exhibitions. Presented in partnership with Sunshine Coast Council and the Friends, Caloundra Regional Gallery is proud to showcase this iconic art prize, which honours and elevates the creative talents of our region.

The Local Contemporary Art Prize continues the vision first established by the Friends in 2014. Over more than a decade, the prize has highlighted the depth and diversity of visual arts practice across the Sunshine Coast, reflecting themes of place, community, identity and lived experience.

This year's exhibition once again features a dynamic collection of works across both two and three dimensional mediums. Artists explore distinctive natural and urban landscapes, personal narratives, contemporary concerns and the evolving nature of artistic practice. From realism and impressionism to abstraction and experimental forms, the finalists offer a rich and varied expression of the creative voice within our region.

With more than 215 entries submitted, selecting the 40 finalists was no easy task. Viewed collectively, these works illuminate the many ways our artists observe, interpret and connect with not only this remarkable place we call home but wider observations of the world.

We are pleased to announce that the Best in Show Acquisitive Award, sponsored by Sunshine Coast Council and the Friends, will once again be acquired into the Sunshine Coast Art Collection, strengthening our commitment to collecting and preserving local art. We extend sincere thanks to the Friends, who continue to be generous supporters of the Best in Show and the 2D and 3D Excellence Awards. Together with Community Bank Caloundra - Bendigo Bank, they also proudly sponsor the much loved People's Choice Award. The Friends' dedication demonstrates the enduring strength of our community's support for local artists.

Our gratitude also goes to this year's judge, Kerryanne Farrer. With more than 30 years of experience across the creative industries, including visual arts, arts leadership, community engagement and cultural development, Kerryanne has significantly contributed to the artistic landscape both regionally and statewide. Her leadership at Flying Arts Alliance expanded professional and creative opportunities for artists across Queensland, and in her current role as Galleries Manager at Redland Art Gallery, she continues to champion artists and audiences through innovative programming and partnerships. We are honoured to have her expertise and insight guiding the judging process for the Local Contemporary Art Prize 2026.

Aligned with the main exhibition, we are delighted to once again present the Local Student Art Prize 2026 in the Gallery's Artroom. Initiated by former President of the Friends and Gallery Patron, Marie Pigott, and proudly supported by the Friends, this uplifting exhibition showcases emerging talent from across the region. We warmly encourage you to visit and celebrate the creativity and promise of our young artists.

Jo Duke

Director, Caloundra Regional Gallery

Traditional Acknowledgement

Sunshine Coast Council acknowledges the Sunshine Coast Country, home of the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples, the Traditional Custodians, whose lands and waters we all now share. We recognise that these have always been places of cultural, spiritual, social and economic significance. The Traditional Custodians' unique values, and ancient and enduring cultures, deepen and enrich the life of our community.

We commit to working in partnership with the Traditional Custodians and the broader First Nations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) communities to support self-determination through economic and community development.

Truth telling is a significant part of our journey. We are committed to better understanding the collective histories of the Sunshine Coast and the experiences of First Nations peoples. Legacy issues resulting from colonisation are still experienced by Traditional Custodians and First Nations peoples. We recognise our shared history and will continue to work in partnership to provide a foundation for building a shared future with the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples.

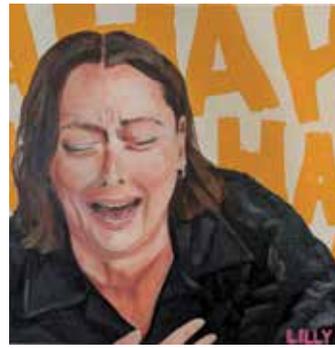
We wish to pay respect to their Elders – past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the important role First Nations peoples continue to play within the Sunshine Coast community.

Together, we are all stronger.



Marvene ASH
Studio furniture (hare hiding), 2025

Oil on Belgian linen
108 x 92cm
Photo by Christine Hall,
Myphotomotion
\$3,200



Lilly BURRIDGE
Celeste, 2026

Oil on canvas
30 x 30cm
\$500



Graham BELL
Black swans on Lake Doonella, 2024

Relief print on acetate with
chine collé and collage
136 x 96cm
Photo by Brooke Petro
Photography
\$3,250



Krissy CARMICHAEL
Violet hour, Glass House Mountains, 2026

Acid-dyed merino wool
and acrylic blend yarn with
wooden beads
97 x 150cm
\$1,050



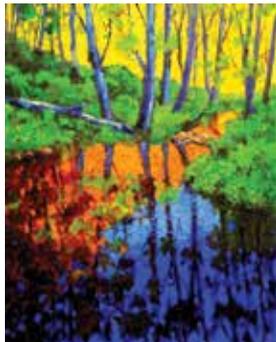
Jean BENNETT
The nep of life, 2025

Silk threads
10 x 25cm (boxed); sculpture
5 x 18cm
\$750



Prudence COBURN
Room to move, not to grow, 2025

Acrylic on canvas
102 x 76cm
\$1,950



Chris BLAKE
Evenings quiet reflections, 2026

Oil on canvas
76 x 61cm
\$1,850



Erin CONRON
Prism study: Innverse #2, 2026

Hand-cut and finished mirror
glass with painted and hand-
incised surface
54 x 67cm
Photo by Dave Gleeson
\$6,500



Susan BRADSHAW
Unmade in blue, 2026

Cyanotype with mixed media
60 x 75cm
\$2,500



Megan CORRIE
Nest, 2025

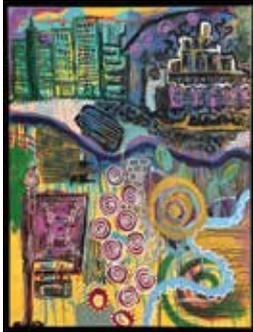
Aluminium etching print
30 x 30cm
\$400



Catherine DINKELMANN
Held together, 2025
Ceramic sculpture
20 x 34 x 27cm
\$899



Alan GREIG
The Critics, 2025
Acrylic and enamel
on canvas
102 x 85cm
\$850



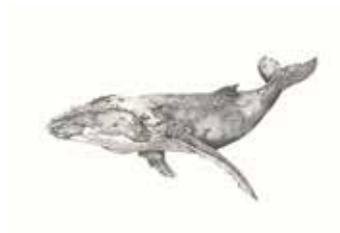
Nikita FITZPATRICK
City lights and circles, 2025
Mixed media
120 x 90cm
Photo by Keetz
\$3,300



Bernardine HINE
Buderim serenity, 2026
Textile and mixed media
33.5 x 40.5cm
\$490



Carol FORSTER
Life cycle of plants, 2024
Mid-fire clay, underglaze and
glaze
31 x 46 x 32cm
\$1,300



Kyarna HOLLOWAY
Aqua aura, 2024
Ink drawing on paper
107 x 136cm
\$2,900



Cilla GAULT
Up, up and a cray!, 2025
Gouache on canvas
121 x 94cm
Photo by Korsos Photography
\$2,900



Petalia HUMPHREYS
EPLC deconstructed, 2025
Low sheen interior/exterior
acrylic (Almost Smitten, Mint
Pea and Quarter Pearl Lustre)
on plywood
Two pieces: 30 x 50 x 20cm /
20 x 20 x 20cm
\$1,560



Terrence GILLESPIE
Bronwyn Street, 2025
Archival pigment print
60 x 60cm
\$2,600



**Ketakii
JEWSON-BROWN**
Tender love, 2025
Pigment print
100 x 100cm
\$2,000



Vera KEATLEY
Succulents and cacti, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
94 x 124cm
\$1,200



Wayne MARKWORT
Cotton Tree sunset, 2026
Spray paint on half a table tennis table
137 x 152cm
\$3,000



Cheryl KENSETT
Courage and grace, 2025
Charcoal and gouache on Arches paper
148 x 83cm
Photo by Christine Hall.
\$3,500



Samantha MAYS
Head in the sand, 2025
Sterling silver, 18ct gold, found object (dice) and sand from Maroochydhore Beach
12 x 10 x 3cm
\$2,800



Brendan KEOGH
Aztec bloom, 2026
Oil on canvas
79 x 79cm
\$2,000



Viki MURRAY
Suspended in faith, 2026
Mixed media on canvas
95cm x 125cm
\$2,200



Elisabeth LAWRENCE
You don't have to win every race, 2025
Oil on canvas
99 x 144cm
\$4,500



Lynda PAGE-BICKLEY
London Bridge on country, 2026
Acrylic on canvas
121.9 x 91.4cm
\$2,700



Megan Ruby LEE
Last light, 2025
Linocut, oil-based ink on Japanese Awagami Kitakata, 36 gsm
142 x 102cm
\$2,500



John Graeme PEARSON
Head of steam, 2024
Oil on canvas
75 x 102cm
\$2,400



Jan ROEBUCK
Repairs to Bribie Island,
2026
Porcelain clay
27 x 27 x 15cm
\$1,500



Sascha TILLSLEY
A glimpse of the eternal,
2026
Pigment liner on Arches
paper
122 x 84cm
Photo by Christine Hall
\$1,800



Phillip ROLTON
Tasmanian high country,
2024
Watercolour, pen and ink
65 x 116cm
Photo by Robyn Rolton
\$9,000



Lauren TKACIK
Silent sentinels, **2026**
Recycled textiles on rug
canvas
54 x 120cm
\$1,560



Susan SCHMIDT
Wind kissed, **2024**
Charcoal, acrylic and oil
on canvas
120 x 120cm
Photo by Mark Lutz,
Art House Reproductions
\$10,000



Jeska VALK
Jellyfish, **2025**
Oil on canvas
155 x 103cm
\$8,780



Wayne SMITH
*In memory of forgotten
landscapes,* **2026**
Acrylic on canvas
120 x 150cm
\$3,950



Darren WHITE
Sunshine, **2025**
Acrylic and oil on canvas
90.5 x 122cm
\$4,200



Robert STEVENS
Love at first sight, **2024**
Oil on canvas
104 x 79cm
\$2,500



Lynda Page-Bickley | **London Bridge on country** | 2026 |
acrylic on canvas | 121.9 x 91.4cm

Acknowledgments

The **Local Contemporary Art Prize 2026** catalogue was published to coincide with the finalists exhibition at Caloundra Regional Gallery.

Exhibition dates: 27 March to 17 May 2026

All images are supplied courtesy of the artists.

Caloundra Regional Gallery and Friends, Regional Gallery Caloundra acknowledge the sponsors and supporters of *Local Contemporary Art Prize 2026* and *Local Student Art Prize 2026*.

Friends, Regional Gallery Caloundra 2026 committee:

President: Fiona Heiner

Vice President: Anne Hinkly-Tyler

Secretary: Lyndall Thomas

Treasurer: Belinda Massey

Committee: Kerrie Corcoran, Alexandra Smith, Ruth Teys

Friends, Regional Gallery Caloundra 2026 patrons:

Rex Backhaus-Smith | Judith Laws | Marie Piggot

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Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday, 10am-4pm, Saturday and Sunday, 10am-2pm.

Closed public holidays and exhibition changeovers.

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