



NATIONALS for Regional NSW

Austin Evans MP

MEMBER FOR MURRAY



MEDIA RELEASE

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IT'S TIME TO GET OUT INTO THE PLEIN AIR! 2018 NSW PARLIAMENT PLEIN AIR PAINTING PRIZE OPENS FOR ENTRIES

Member for Murray Austin Evans is encouraging professional and emerging artists with a penchant for painting *en plein air* to enter the NSW Parliament Plein Air Painting Prize for a chance to win \$20,000.

Mr Evans said the coveted award is the only one of its type in the state of NSW, and includes a public exhibition of finalists' works at NSW Parliament House throughout October 2018.

The NSW Parliament Plein Air Painting Prize is one of the only landscape painting prizes in Australia to celebrate this unique and age-old art form, which requires the artist to paint entirely out of doors, in direct contact with nature and the elements. Artists cross fields, climb mountains, follow rivers, trek coastlines, or even simply wander out into their backyard or neighbourhood in search of the perfect subject.

"We have some incredible natural and urban scenery and I'd encourage local artists to pack their paints and easels and have a go at capturing the area *en plein air*," said Mr Evans.

"Who knows, you could be the lucky recipient of the \$20,000 prize," he said.

Now in its 11th year, the prize has gained a reputation for shining a spotlight on professional and emerging *plein air* painters, and is one of the most eagerly anticipated landscape painting prizes on the NSW arts calendar.

It has furthered the careers of past winners including Tom Carment, Guy Maestri, Noel McKenna, Euan Macleod, Rodney Pople, John Bokor, Isabel Gomez and most recently, Rachel Ellis.

Artists are invited to enter up to two paintings completed *en plein air* of a New South Wales subject, with the work begun on or after 1 May 2016. So pick up your brushes, your easels and your canvasses and get painting!

Entries will be accepted from Monday 2 July to Monday 6 August 2018 via electronic submission. For more information, including important dates, conditions of entry and the entry form please visit www.pleinair.com.au

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