

Artist has right touch

By Khrysti Balanay

Winton artist Emma Read has been named a finalist at the Flying Arts Alliance signature event, the Queensland Regional Art Awards (QRAA), for her piece 'Immerse'.

The QRAA selected the theme 'Perspective', which saw entries that evoked diverse individual and collective viewpoints, memories, and experiences integral to contemporary society.

First-round judge artist, curator and director of the Rockhampton Museum of Art Jonathan McBurnie said the entries received were "pieces that best represent the diversity in artist talent we have in regional Queensland."

With nine judged art categories, Emma was selected as a finalist for the Remote Artist Award for her piece, which took five weeks to create.

"Immerse has a woman, and you don't know if she's drowning, and you don't know if she's floating to the surface," she said.

"She is sort of immersed and surrounded by jellyfish.

"I use a technique called strataism, which is in between a technique called stippling and pointillism.

"I use ink dots, so they are 0.01 of a millimetre and are exactly like tattooing, but you're not doing it to the skin; you're doing it to arches paper, which is 300GSM cotton paper."

On being named as a finalist for the QRAA, Emma said she was pretty shocked but elated.

"I've never won anything or been put into a final before," she said.

"I work for the Regional Arts Services Network for CQUniversity, and I saw it come through my channel. I had three pieces in mind, two of which were already completed and the other I had completed, particularly for the theme Perspective.

"I've waited a really long time to find an exhibition that would take on work that wouldn't later re-sell it.

"It's very rare that these sorts of competitions are held with that sort of set-up.

"Also, I've waited for the Perspective theme for many years because it's one of my favourite themes that really lends itself to my type of artwork.

"Because my art is so detailed, I like to get really close to certain subjects, which gives it a different perspective."

Although Emma's two other pieces were not chosen for the awards, she said the judges asked her to send another piece for an exhibition in Brisbane.

"The piece going to Brisbane is called 'The Sky is Falling'," she said.

"They must have gotten my other piece in the mail because when I describe it, no one understands what it looks like.

"When you see a photograph of it, it doesn't look like anything. It's not until you see it in person that it's just made up of tiny dots.

"So I guess they got it and thought it was quite unique."

The Flying Arts Alliance will reveal the winners at the QRAA Gala on Friday, 24 November.



Emma Read's piece Immerse which was selected as a finalist for the Flying Arts Alliance's Queensland Regional Art Awards. Picture: CONTRIBUTED

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