

Gold Coast artist wins \$5,000 People's Choice Award in national exhibition

Gold Coast artist **Peter Smets** has received the highest number of votes in the \$5,000 People's Choice Award for his work in The Stan and Maureen Duke Gold Coast Art Prize 2011. Titled *Water Towers* the work was painted after Smets photographed the massive structures during a recent visit to his father in the Netherlands.

The painting has proven very popular with visitors to the Gallery; the looming dark sky rolls in over the massive towers, which sit atop a hill that overlooks a sun-streaked town. Every detail can be seen in this hyper-realistic painting, from the sway of the grass to the gleam of light as the sun reflects off the steel structure.

The generous prize has been sponsored by 19 Karen Contemporary Art Space, located in Mermaid Beach on the Gold Coast.

Gold Coast City Gallery received over 650 People's Choice Award votes, highlighting the personal tastes and enthusiasm of visitors to the Gallery over the summer period.

In December guest judge Davida Allen selected Sydney based artist Chris Langlois's work *Darkwood no. 19* as the winner of this prestigious prize, which is one of the longest running and richest acquisitive art prizes in Australia. In addition to Langlois' painting, works by Rew Hanks and local artist Jodie Wells were acquired for the Gold Coast City Gallery Collection.

The Stan and Maureen Duke Gold Coast Art Prize 2011 will continue until Sunday 5 February.



Peter Smets, *Water Towers* 2011, oil on canvas. Courtesy of the artist and Anthea Polson Art, Gold Coast and Harrison Galleries, Sydney

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

GOLD COAST CITY GALLERY

The Arts Centre Gold Coast

135 Bundall Road, Surfers Paradise, Qld

P: 5581 6567 E: gallery@theartscentregc.com.au

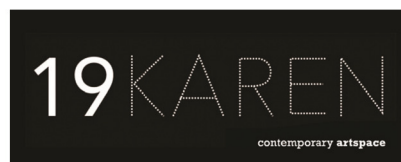
W: www.theartscentregc.com.au

Open Weekdays 10am-5pm Weekends 11am – 5pm

Media Enquiries: Virginia Rigney

rigney@theartscentregc.com.au

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