

AMES and MULTICULTURAL ARTS VICTORIA present

# HEARTLANDS



Presented in partnership with:

REFUGEE FINE ART PRIZE 2012

Parks  
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Healthy Parks  
Healthy People

Sidney Myer  
FOUNDATION

VicHealth

ARTS  
VICTORIA

Victoria

WALKER STREET  
Gallery & Arts Centre

MEDIA ALERT

**EMBARGOED: 10 April 2012**

## **Last chance for talented refugee artists to enter art prize**

*“Her new work often shows the contrast between the peace and beauty she finds in Australia and the extreme hardship of life in Burma and Thailand.” Carmel Power, Community Outreach ESL Teacher on the 2011 Heartlands’ 1<sup>st</sup> prize-winner, Ma Late, who won for her visually stunning entry ‘Three Countries’.*

Talented refugee artists in Australia have only a short time left to enter an exciting competition that could see them sharing in a \$15,000 prize pool and their own solo exhibition.

Paintings, drawings, photography and mixed media works reflecting and expressing the aspirations of refugee artists who have arrived in Australia since 1970 are due for this year’s *Heartlands Refugee Fine Art Prize* by **Friday 20 April**.

Now in its third year, the *Heartlands Refugee Fine Art Prize* is presented by AMES and Multicultural Arts Victoria in partnership with VicHealth, Parks Victoria and the Sidney Myer Foundation.

A total prize pool of \$15,000 will be shared by three primary prize-winners, a new arrival prize and eight honourable mentions. First prize is \$5,000 plus a solo exhibition and artist in residence opportunity.

Shortlisted entries will be showcased at the *Heartlands Refugee Fine Art Prize exhibition*, held at fortyfivedownstairs in Flinders Lane from 6-16 June 2012 in the lead up to Refugee Week and a selection of works at the Walker Street Gallery in Dandenong from 5-18 July 2012 as part of the Emerge Festival.

VicHealth CEO Jerril Rechter will announce the award winners at a special exhibition-opening event on 5 June.

“Heartlands Refugee Fine Art Prize shows the talent that has arrived recently in Australia through the visual arts. The work to date has been extraordinary,” stated Jill Morgan CEO of Multicultural Arts Victoria.

Adam Baxter, Communications and Stakeholder Relations Manager at AMES said distinguished members of the Australian arts sector will form the panel of judges.

The judges include Jane Clark, Research Curator at the Museum of Old and New Art, Tasmania, Elena Taylor, Curator of Australian Art at the National Gallery of Victoria, Jill Morgan, Executive Officer at Multicultural Arts Victoria, and Damian Smith, curator and arts writer and Director of Words For Art, Melbourne.

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“We’re very excited to have such vibrant and well-respected experts involved with the prize to help recognise the skills, talents and creativity that refugees bring to Victoria, and the social and cultural contributions they provide to our community,” Mr Baxter said.

Entries close **Friday 20 April 2012**. For more information call 03 9188 3681, email [fiesta@multiculturalarts.com.au](mailto:fiesta@multiculturalarts.com.au) or visit [www.multiculturalarts.com.au/heartlands](http://www.multiculturalarts.com.au/heartlands).

Heartlands is part of the Multicultural Arts Victoria’s *Emerge Festival* from 1 June – 31 July, across Victoria. *Emerge* will showcase the contribution emerging and refugee communities are having on contemporary arts and culture [www.multiculturalarts.com.au](http://www.multiculturalarts.com.au).

AMES and Multicultural Arts Victoria acknowledge the Sidney Myer Fund for their generous contribution to the *Heartlands Refugee Fine Art Prize 2012*. Their contribution will ensure that refugee artists will be given opportunities to contribute to the social, economic and cultural fabric of Victoria. The Sidney Myer Fund’s mission is to build a fair, just, creative, sustainable and caring society through initiatives that promote positive changes in Australia.

**For images, interviews and more information contact:**

**SHANNON STACEY**

**0408 147 914**

[shannon@thelaunchbox.com.au](mailto:shannon@thelaunchbox.com.au)