

studio A

Media Release

March 27, 2019

Studio A artists take on the Archibald

Three of the North Shore's finest artists are taking on the nation's top portraiture prize, the Archibald, with their unique takes on fellow artists and puppetry masters.

The artists - Thom Roberts, Emily Crockford and Daniel Kim- all hail from Studio A, NSW's only supported studio for professional artists with intellectual disability. The Crows Nest based not-for-profit, which was established over 5 years ago, helps artists overcome the challenges they face in accessing conventional education and professional development pathways needed to be successful and renowned visual artists.

"Studio A connects our artists with like-minded mainstream artists so they can work together, to learn from each other, and to create great art that contributes to Australia's contemporary art scene," said Gabrielle Mordy, CEO/Artistic Director Studio A.

"Painting portraits for the Archibald encapsulates the meaningful and productive relationships Thom, Emily and Daniel have developed with their chosen artists, relationships that are rich and multi-beneficial for all involved."

Roberts is bringing his bold colour palette, linework and unique perspective to paint the portrait of his friend and collaborator Scott Wright, the artistic director of the world renowned puppetry company Erth Visual and Physical Inc.

Roberts has been represented by Studio A since its establishment, and has exhibited at Cementa Festival, Big Anxiety Festival, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, and Underbelly Arts Festival on Cockatoo Island. Most recently he was selected to exhibit in The National 2019: New Australian Art at Carriageworks, Eveleigh.

Crockford will be using her exuberant and colourful painting style to capture her friend and artist Rosie Deacon for the Archibald. Crockford and Deacon have worked collaboratively for a number of years, exhibiting together across Sydney including a large installation for the Project Space in Cement Fondu in 2018. Crockford's works have featured around siteworks for the City of Sydney Council and include a 39-metre mural for Westpac's service centre in Concord West.

The final artist from Studio A to enter this year's Archibald is Daniel Kim, a talented portrait painter whose photo-realistic style has been in high demand among private collectors, CEOs and government ministers. His most recent commission was completed for the Member of Hornsby, local MP Matt Kean.

Kim is painting his friend and fellow Archibald entrant, Thom Roberts.

"Entering the Archibald Prize is a real reflection of our artists' important and meaningful contribution to a neurodiverse art world," Mordy said.

---ends---

Editor's note: Photos of the artists and their work can be arranged. The works will be submitted April 5th. Please contact Karla Hansen for more information:
karla.hansen@studioa.org.au / ph. 0401 916 048