

studio A

Media Release

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Four Studio A artists shine as finalists in the Archibald Prize 2023.



Left: Emily Crockford, Jeff's pink daisy eyelash clash, acrylic on canvas, 79cm x 104cm. Right: Catherine McGuinness, Lucky, acrylic on canvas, 91.4cm x 122cm.

[Studio A](#) – a social enterprise arts studio dedicated to supporting neurodiverse artists - is thrilled to announce four of its artists have been selected as finalists in the prestigious and historic Archibald Prize.

Emily Crockford and Thom Roberts have secured their place as Archibald finalists for a third time. Catherine McGuinness, who made a striking debut in 2022, has again been recognised as a finalist. And artist Daniel Kim celebrates his first selection as a finalist with his powerful self-portrait.

These four exceptional artists, represented by Studio A, showcase the diversity of talent fostered by the studio, which serves as a leading supported studio for professional artists with intellectual disability. Over the past four years, Studio A artists have received a remarkable total of eleven nominations for this prestigious accolade.

[Daniel Kim](#)'s captivating self-portrait, titled "Self portrait, holding memories, my mentor Greg Warburton," pays homage to his late mentor and respected artist, Greg Warburton, who passed away in 2022. The acrylic on canvas painting showcases the depth of

Daniel's talent and captures a poignant moment as he reflects on their shared memories.

Daniel explains: *"My self portrait is of me remembering my mentor Greg, who passed away last year in 2022. I made an album of Greg to help me remember him. The album contains many photos of Greg and myself and all the artworks I made with Greg's support. I miss Greg very much."*

Greg Warburton, an Archibald finalist himself, was a highly respected artist with works held by the National Portrait Gallery. He served as Daniel's friend and mentor for over a decade, providing invaluable guidance and support. The self-portrait serves as a testament to the profound impact of their relationship and the enduring influence of mentorship in Daniel's artistic practice.



Daniel Kim, *Self Portrait, holding memories, my mentor Greg Warburton*, acrylic on canvas, 50 x 40cm

[Catherine McGuinness](#) met Kylie Kwong, a chef, restaurateur, author and tv presenter, at the South Eveleigh Artist Markets in 2022. Kylie purchased one of Catherine's artworks and a connection was formed. For her Archibald submission, Catherine drew inspiration from Kylie's restaurant "Lucky Kwong," where the live sitting took place. The resulting portrait, titled "Lucky," is an emotive acrylic on canvas piece that captures the essence of Kylie's personality and the special meaning behind the word "Lucky".

"I've painted Kylie wearing her favourite necklace and her round glasses. She always wears black. The words Lucky are written lots and lots to refer to Kylie's special restaurant and memory of her son, which her restaurant is named after. She's a lovely person." says Catherine.



[Thom Roberts'](#) submission, titled "In the future there might be new tall buildings built by Bert (Farhad Haidari)", is a striking acrylic and graphite portrait of architect Farhad Haidari, Principal at Architectus.

Thom and Farhad met during Thom's residency at The Langston Epping, one of Farhad's recent residential developments. Thom, who affectionately refers to Farhad as Bert, was invited to the Architectus offices at 25 Martin Place, a building designed by Harry Seidler. The city skyline visible from the office windows provided a captivating backdrop for the portrait sitting.

Left: Thom Roberts, *In the future there might be new tall buildings built by Bert (Farhad Haidari)*, acrylic and graphite on timber, 192 x 61 cm

"Bert showed me his sculpture models of building heights. I am a bit like an architect too and I also like to make VERY tall building heights like Bert, like what I have added to my painting of Bert," Thom said.

[Emily Crockford](#)'s submission to the Archibald Prize is a vibrant and joyful portrait of contemporary artist Jeff McCann.

"I've known Jeff McCann over a few years. We follow each other on instagram. He is a professional artist who paints lots of murals and makes lots of beautiful art and stickers to sell." says Emily. "I paint lots of murals too and I love all my art very much. Jeff says he is inspired by my work and I am inspired by his artwork too!"

Emily captured Jeff in his studio, wearing a handcrafted costume of his making and a tangerine-tipped wig. Titled *Jeff's pink daisy eyelash clash*, the acrylic painting on canvas bursts with punchy pinks and purples.

"Studio A is beyond proud to have four of our artists, Catherine McGuiness, Emily Crockford, Daniel Kim and Thom Roberts, recognised as Archibald finalists. Studio A is particularly touched to see first time Archibald finalist Daniel Kim's work selected. Daniel's self portrait pays homage to his relationship with the late artist and Studio A mentor Greg Warburton. All the Archibald finalist works celebrate the artist's relationship with other esteemed creative professionals ranging from chefs to architects to visual artists. The quality and content of the work firmly demonstrates how neurodivergent artists are meaningfully contributing to Australia's art world" says Studio A CEO and Artistic Director, Gabrielle Mordy.

Studio A is a Sydney-based not-for-profit arts organisation and social enterprise. Established in 2016, the studio exists to ensure neurodiverse artists have a voice in contemporary Australian culture and to provide employment to their artists through sustainable creative careers.

Currently both Emily Crockford and Thom Roberts have exhibitions showing at local galleries. Bondi Pavilion Gallery is hosting [Rainbow, Mermaid, Fireworks](#), an immersive, sparkling, under-the-sea exhibition by Emily in collaboration with Rosie Deacon. While Thom Roberts is exhibiting in collaboration with Simon Wheeldon at Cube Space, Mosman Art Gallery. Titled [Pink Panther Town](#), the exhibition sees Thom experiment with new materials and ideas.

Studio A has also been selected to partner for a third time, this year alongside [Little Orange](#), with [Incognito Art Show](#). The Incognito Art Show is Australia's biggest and most inclusive art show, raising funds in support of Australian artists.

The 2023 Archibald Prize exhibition will be held at the Art Gallery of New South Wales from May 6, 2023.

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