



Judges comments

Blake Prize \$35,000

RECIPIENT

SJ NORMAN
Cicatrix (All that was taken, all that remains), 2019



Diptych of Giclee prints, Performance Documentation

SJ Norman's diptych photo series *Cicatrix (All that was taken, all that remains)* made an immediate impact on all three judges, both visually and conceptually, and was unanimously selected as the winner of the 67th Blake Prize.

Central to the work is the acknowledgement of 147 Aboriginal people who have lost their lives while in police custody over the last decade. This is a subject of national importance, and the judges anticipate this prize will bring new attention and continued engagement by the public with this topic.

The judges were also impressed by the ways the artist explore ideas of scarification and ceremonial languages of Aboriginal peoples into the work. *Cicatrix*, and the artist's practice, resonates with the themes of this prize but also has the potential to expand how contemporary audiences engage with the themes of spirituality, belief and religion in our contemporary Australian context.

The judges believe SJ Norman is well placed to really benefit from this significant art prize. Congratulations.

Established Artist Residency

RECIPIENT

KATY B PLUMMER

WE ARE ALL ASTONISHINGLY WISE, 2021

Digital video, motion sensor,
pink fur, QR code



The judges were instantly animated and excited by Katy B Plummer's *WE ARE ALL ASTONISHINGLY WISE*.

The judges found this to be an extremely refined presentation, every detail from the pink frame and sensor box through to the oracle interpretations and accompanying website, is executed with great care and consideration.

The judges are excited to see how the artist will take this opportunity to work with the teams at Casula Powerhouse through a residency and exhibition project. They recognised that Katy has a strong point of view that will be showcased in a solo exhibition.

Emerging Artist Prize (Acquisitive)

RECIPIENT

SAKINAH ALATAS

Qadarullah (Divine decree),
2021

Mix yarn with hand manual tufting



“Qadarullah” (Divine decree) spotlights Sakinah Alatas as an exciting emerging artist to watch. The judges believe this work aligns exceptionally with the themes of the Blake Prize. The story of birth and death, experiences between mother and daughter, is personal but will be affecting and relevant to many audiences.

The judges also believe the work exhibits an appreciation of historical and contemporary traditions within textile art. The work will make a worthwhile contribution to the existing collection of contemporary textile art in Liverpool City Council’s art collection.