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The Helgaard Steyn Awards Die Helgaard Steyn-toekennings

Nominations are now requested for the Helgaard Steyn Award for Painting

The Helgaard Steyn Trust

The Helgaard Steyn Trust was established in the estate of Dr J H (Jan) Steyn (1902-1983), old boy of the former Grey University College (the present University of the Free State), late MP for Potchefstroom and director of companies. The Trust is named after his father, onetime MPC for Bloemfontein and youngest brother of M T Steyn, the last president of the old Orange Free State Republic. The current trustees are Me Hanneli Rupert-Koegelenberg, Mr Gerard Rupert, Mr Francois van der Merwe and ABSA TRUST LTD.

The Trust benefits the conservation of agricultural land in the Free State and the promotion of artistic culture in South Africa. Fifty percent of the net annual rent on the conservation area is dedicated to the Helgaard Steyn Award. The value of the prizes has increased considerably over the past decades making the Helgaard Steyn Award one of the most substantial art prizes in the country (exceeding R400 000.00). The prizes are awarded in a quadrennial cycle, alternating between the disciplines of musical composition, painting, literature and sculpture. The venue of presentation alternates between Potchefstroom and Bloemfontein.

Past recipients of Helgaard Steyn Awards for Painting were Pippa Skotnes (1987), Nel Erasmus (1991), Robert Hodgins (1995), Cyril Coetzee (2003), Bronwen Findlay (2007) and Pauline Gutter (2011).

The principals of the universities of North-West and the Free State each annually appoint an adjudicator in the relevant discipline. Together the latter nominate a third adjudicator. Annali Dempsey curator of the University of Johannesburg Gallery will join Angela de Jesus (representing the UFS) and Prof John R Botha (representing the NWU) on the panel of adjudicators of the award for painting in 2015.

The following stipulations apply for the nomination of candidates for the Helgaard Steyn Award for Painting:

1. Any artist of South African birth is eligible for the Helgaard Steyn Award. The prize is awarded for any work of art considered, in the opinion of the panel of adjudicators, to be the most meritorious in the discipline, provided that it was produced during the past four years and that it remains accessible to the South African public, for example by being included in a public art collection or by being part of/installed in a public building or space.
2. The adjudicators interpret the spirit of the provisions in the estate to imply that the merits of the works of art under consideration would include their exemplification of a high level of artistic achievement and innovative leadership maintained by the artist over an extended period of time.
3. The adjudicators have the responsibility of reconciling the original stipulations in the estate with an inclusive interpretation of the categories of painting and sculpture, in keeping with current changes in the visual arts. Thus 'painting' may include work in series, drawings, tapestries, prints and work on paper.
4. Art museums, galleries and their appointees, curators, art consultants and arts practitioners can nominate artworks by submitting to the panel of adjudicators a statement of motivation, a *curriculum vitae* of the artist and the details of the work in question (including visual documentation).
5. Any inquiries will be answered at, and nominations should to be forwarded to the panel of adjudicators at the following address:
Angela de Jesus, Johannes Stegmann Art Gallery,
University of the Free State, P O Box 339 (12), BLOEMFONTEIN, 9300
Tel: (051) 401-2706, Email: helgaardsteynaward2015@gmail.com
www.helgaardsteyntrust.co.za
6. No correspondence on the merits of any specific award will be undertaken on the behalf of the Trust after the adjudicators' recommendation has been submitted to the trustees and the name of the recipient of the award has been announced through a press release.

The deadline for nominations is the 31 July 2015.