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## Shaun Gladwell Wins \$50,000 Shirley Hannan Portrait Award



Internationally acclaimed Australian artist Shaun Gladwell has been awarded the \$50,000 Shirley Hannan National Portrait Award for 2014. Gladwell won the award with a moving diptych of Aboriginal actor Meyne Wyatt dressed as a Black Digger in Army uniform costume. "Portrait of Meyne Wyatt/Black Digger" was one of 35 finalists selected from almost 200 entries submitted for the award, which is a celebration of realistic portraiture and one of Australia's best loved and richest portrait prizes.

The Award was judged by Sarah Engledow, a curator at the National Portrait Gallery, who identified Gladwell's work as "the one that sustained my interest, aesthetically and sympathetically. I was moved by the restraint of the work, its gentleness, and the effect of its miniscule differences."

Engledow noted that the portrait on the left expresses alertness and the illusion of awareness of a person or thing whereas on the right there is introspection. "These differences are barely perceptible, like adjoining frames in a film," she said. "It reflects contemporary Australia and the sympathies, interests and lifestyles of a variety of people across the country. As a mother of two sons of an age to go to war, as my father did and Sean Gladwell's father did, I was moved."

The Shirley Hannan National Portrait Award finalists' exhibition will be on view until July 5 in the Bega Valley Regional Gallery (BVRG).

— Nicholas Forrest (@ARTINFO\_Aus)

(Photo: Shirley Hannan National Portrait Award)