



Space Around the galleries

Compelling pastels

Rick Amor calls drawing “the most direct and intimate expression of an artist’s sensibility”. That’s also a good description of a pastel work by Melbourne artist Gina Kalabishis (right) that has won the



\$12,000 drawing prize Amor sponsors at Ballarat Art Gallery. NGV prints and drawings curator Alisa Bunbury, who selected Kalabishis’ untitled work from a shortlist of 77, judged the biennial prize this year. “It is quietly compelling, showing an arrangement of vegetation, drawn solely in white, that emerges from the black surface of the paper like a ghostly form,” Bunbury says of the winning work. “It responds to ideas of the Dutch still-life genre and to Japanese ikebana, but . . . also evokes the idea of the memento mori, the visual reminder that death approaches.” All finalists’ works are on show until Sunday 23 March.

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