

BOUNDLESS

Untying Religion in Art

'Art, like Christian faith itself, is at home in the region of symbol - that realm in which meanings are not so much stated as they are evoked or illuminated, and in which events are not so much described as they are remembered and celebrated.'

- Roger Hazelton, A Theological Approach to Art

The body of Christ is an extraordinarily diverse and complex place. We are empowered with creative expression having the potential to reach and unify people in the midst of all their differences.

Background

Boundless draws inspiration from *The Blake Prize*, one of Australia's longest standing art prizes, which encourages conversation about spirituality and religion through art. *The Blake Prize* is widely respected for attracting artists from a diverse range of backgrounds and ages. Finalists range from leading contemporary practitioners to emerging and self-taught artists. *The Blake Prize* presents an aesthetic means of exploring the wider experience of spirituality and all this may entail through the visionary imagining of contemporary artists. *The Blake Prize* takes its name from William Blake, an artist who succeeded in integrating religion and art in his work.

Proposed Outline

The concept of Boundless is based on similar principles to The Blake Prize, an art competition exploring personal themes of belief and spirituality in a contemporary artistic context. This provides a great platform for engaging Archdiocesan school communities as well as encouraging dialogue celebrating Faith in all its diversity.

Our social landscape is a diverse and complex one, Boundless aims to encourage our communities to explore through creative narrative: Faith, spirituality, religion, hope, humanity, social justice, belief and non-belief.

This is an opportunity to reflect, engage and express one's place of Faith, across different creative disciplines: paint, sculpture, illustration and music.

The competition is open to all Catholic school communities (staff, students, friends and families) across the Archdiocese, including CE staff.

Process

- Schools will judge their own entries per year level (the Principal will determine the finalist). Schools may submit a finalist in the Primary, Secondary and Community categories.
- Entries must be submitted to the judging panel at the CE in the form of a photo or video of the work accompanied by a rationale.
- The deadline for submissions is Friday, 26 July 2019.
- Competition winners will be selected for display at the Great Hall in St Christopher's Pastoral Centre. Finalists will be asked to install their artwork.
- Winning entries will be formally awarded during the Catholic Schools Cultural Festival at the Recognition Awards ceremony.
- All artworks not collected after the four weeks will be stored at the CE office in Canberra for 12 months.

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Finalists Judging Panel

We recommend that the judging panel be comprised of:

- Vicar of Education, Monsignor John Woods
- CE Deputy Director, Angus Tulley
- Principal Catholic Identity Officer, Paddy McGrath

The Judging Panel will provide recommendations to the Director.

Entry Categories

Entries are open to all people of all ages in the following categories:

- Paint
- Sculpture
- Photography
- Illustration
- Music.

Judging Categories

- Primary School
- Secondary School
- Community (Teachers, CE staff, parents and friends)

Selection Criteria

The best art has meaning beyond the image or object; it should evoke emotion or thought and be clear in its intent. The following criteria is suggested to guide the artists and the judging panel:

- All artworks entered must demonstrate a recognisable exploration of faith, spirituality, religion, hope, humanity, social justice, belief and/or non-belief.
- Originality and creativity.
- Quality of composition and overall design based on the theme.
- Art that tells a story or evokes emotion.
- Art that makes a specific statement – is a clear expression of the artist.