

Media Release

23 May 2016

ART COMPETITION BRINGING DEATH TO LIFE

To celebrate National Palliative Care Week 2016, Palliative Care Australia (PCA) and Palliative Care Australian Capital Territory (PACT) will launch their inaugural national online art competition.

The online art competition, themed *Life in Death*, will open on 23 May and close on 14 August 2016. Entrants are invited to create an artwork reflecting on the theme *Life in Death*, and submit a photo of their artwork for online exhibition and judging.

PCA CEO Liz Callaghan and PACT General Manager Gayle Sweaney are thrilled to launch the competition.

“We often have people tell us that talking about death is difficult. Art is one way to express important and deep feelings that we may struggle to talk about,” Ms Sweaney said.

Despite being something that touches all our lives, death does not receive a lot of visibility in Australian society. PCA and PACT aim to reach into the community through art, helping people to reflect on life and death in a personal but non-threatening way.

“Through sharing their art, competition entrants are sharing their reflections on death and the important place it has in all our lives. With more conversation, comes better support for people who are approaching the end of life, as well as their families.” Ms Callaghan said.

The online competition will see the overall winner take away \$1,000 in prize money. Another \$1,000 prize will be for the People’s Choice Award as voted by the Australian public.

“We encourage all Australians to check out the competition, whether it be to enter a piece or to look at the entries. This is an art show for the community, and we expect artists of all styles and abilities to enter. This competition is an excellent opportunity to showcase the work of Australian artists,” Ms Callaghan said.

When the competition closes in August, voting for People’s Choice Award will open. Shortlisted artworks, as determined by a panel of judges, will also be invited to exhibit at M16 Artspace in Canberra from 29 September to 9 October 2016.

All the details on the art competition and exhibition are available at www.dyingtotalk.org.au

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Media contact: Grace Keyworth – 0422 040 576
palliativecare.org.au

