

Coveted art prize draws many, varied entries

Joe in journey to PAST

WHEN artist Joe Rimmer decided to enter this year's North Sydney Art Prize, he went to Stanton Library to do some historical research.

Using house paint and acrylics, he has painted an 80cm by 60cm piece on the theme of consumption and "how transport has really consumed North Sydney".

It covers the period 1926 to 1928 when the trolleybuses were built to the bridge and shows Alfred St, with E-class trams going round the corner.

This year is the seventh year of the council-backed prize, which will be judged by Luna Park artist Peter Kingston, also well known for his environmental work.

The council offers a \$3000 open prize, and here are three new prizes this year: a \$750 open prize sponsored by the Noella Byrne Art Gallery, a \$1000 prize from KvB Institute of Technology, Mount St, and an award from North Sydney Leagues Club for art depicting sporting life.

There are prizes for works on paper, drawing, photography, children's art, youth prizes, highly commended work and a

special local resident award.

Joe, 29, who lives in Ridge St, has had exhibitions at Wentworth Falls and Brunswick, Melbourne. He worked on two panels at the McMahons Point Community Centre mural which show people leaving the ferries at Milsons Point in the 1940s, walking up Blues Point Rd to



Joe Rimmer focuses on transport in North Sydney . . . always a contentious issue

PHOTO: Maria Bentley

the pubs, with Luna Park in the corner.

Joe works at Crows Nest company Brainwave Interactive, editing videos and converting CD-ROMs to the internet and he was producer of Under A Southern Sun, a Federal Government CD-ROM program about Australian artists and landscapes initiated by former prime minister Paul Keating.

The National Gallery of Australia chose 25 or so artists and Joe used

stories about their artwork, for example, dipping into Arthur Streeton's diaries to help explain his painting Fire's On! and visiting the spot in the Blue Mountains where it was painted.

He also looked at Margaret Preston's linocut of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, painted from behind North Sydney station, and included information from her personal documents and a poem about the area.

Joe has also custom-designed more than 400 T-shirts — "they started out quite basic Australian Outback landscapes, sort of like Russell Drysdale, then they got a little bit warped, surrealistic". Other entrants include Elizabeth Michel, who was hung in the Mosman Art Prize last year, has taught art in Prague and worked for the Art Gallery of NSW, The Cottage, Mosman, and North Sydney Leisure Centre.

She has a passion for work with pen and ink and pastel and is preparing a miniature landscape using a variety of media for the competition. Former Hobart Mercury art critic Ian Macdonald, who currently has an exhibition at Crows Nest, is also entering, along with KvB students, whose work will go through an internal selection process. First year graphic

design student Kristina Warren said: "This sort of event gives us a great opportunity to hone our skills and prepare work for public viewing."

Submission day for entries is Monday, June 29. The exhibition will run from July 5 to 19 at the Royal Art Society's Lavender Bay Gallery, Walker St.

Phone the council on 9936 8470 for entry details.