

**MEDIA RELEASE****22 March 2019****EMERGING MELBOURNE PHOTOGRAPHER SARAH WALKER WINS  
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND PHOTOBOOK AWARD 2018**

The winners of the Momento Pro Australia and New Zealand Photobook Award 2018 were announced to a full house of photo book creators and lovers at the Centre for Contemporary Photography in Melbourne on Saturday 16 March. The biggest prize went to emerging Melbourne photographer, Sarah Walker. Her debut book, *Second Sight*, published by independent publisher Perimeter Books, won the Photobook Winner prize of \$1,000 in cash and \$3,000 in Momento Pro print credit. It was selected from 117, mainly self-published, entries.

*Second Sight* explores our relationship with spirituality, faith and ritual, with a healthy dose of cynicism. The judge's described it as, "having an unsettling voice that draws on spirit photography, nineteenth century notions of hysteria, and the arcane world of secret ritual." They praised it for its, "wonderful combination of photography, editing, design and storytelling. The narrative builds, changes and repeats, and the theme of 'seeing is believing' is reinforced and reimaged throughout the book." It was published as a softcover edition of 500 at \$30RRP.

A total of \$13,500 in cash and Momento Pro printing credit prizes were awarded on the night, with the aim of helping the winners' publish new work and progress their career. New Zealand's representation was impressive on a per capita basis, as they secured six of the 12 finalist nominations. It was therefore fitting that the recipient of the new Student Winner prize, Indonesian-born Kira Sampurno, produced her self-published book *ROYGBIV* as part of a Bachelor of Design (Honours) at Massey University in Wellington.

Sampurno's 58-page laminated spiral hardcover book utilises a visually playful and vibrant design to explore Wellington's architectural environment. The judge's commented that, "the foldout and tipped-in pages make use of lively colours and present an alternative, sometimes abstract view of ordinary

buildings that have become familiar. *ROYGBIV* is refreshingly simple and fun, and an excellent example of how photo books can be creatively produced."

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The Photobook Commended prize went to *Huon*, a poetic comment on the conflict between conservation and development in Tasmania, by Noah Thompson. The judges said, " *Huon* is a beautiful photographic story that combines landscapes and portrait imagery with archival material, to evoke tension and create an awareness of how attitudes toward the environment have, and haven't, changed. The intimacy of the imagery makes you feel like you know the people, while the white space and blank pages give you room to reflect.' It was self-published in an edition of 20 hardcovers complemented by an 8x10" photographic print, available for \$200.

Yask Desai of Photography Studies College, Melbourne was awarded the Student Commended prize for his book, *Craigieburn, it's not the same*. The judge's felt that, "not only do the empathetic and honest portraits reflect a suburb on the cusp of social change, they serve as a broader understanding of the changing demographics of Australia. This is a visual ethnography accessible to those with and without a knowledge of photo books."

The judging panel consisted of six photography and publishing experts from Australia and New Zealand, including one international judge, renowned Dutch photo book designer Teun van der Heijden of graphic design agency Heijdens Karwei.

The Award exhibition of 12 books now travels to ten destinations throughout Australia and New Zealand, as far as Hobart and Christchurch. Visitors to the exhibition are invited to vote for People's Choice winner who will receive \$500 cash and \$1500 print credit. A printed catalogue is also available and distributed to photo book critics and communities around the world.

The Award has a history of being a launch pad for past finalists winners, who have gone on to secure major international publishing deals, and last year's Commended finalist, James Bugg, went on to win the prestigious Moran Contemporary Photography Prize. To find out more about current and past winners, or to view and buy their books visit [anzphotobookaward.com](http://anzphotobookaward.com).

- ENDS -

**Other Australia and New Zealand Award 2018 finalists**

- *Dream State* by Stavros Messinis / M-Art Books (AU)
- *I Want This Life and Another* by Robyn Daly (NZ)
- *Image Ecologies* by James Farley & Jacob Raupach / Currency Editions (AU)
- *Living with AIDS (1988)* by Fiona Clark & Michael Lett (NZ)
- *Permission To Belong* by Tammy Law (AU)
- *Six for Gold* by Jake Mein & Bad News Books (NZ)
- *The Tensile Strength of a Heartstring* by Hannah Rose Arnold (NZ)
- *The Winter Garden* by Christine McFetridge, Bad News Books & M.33 (NZ)

### ***The Australia and New Zealand Photobook Award***

Momento Pro established the Australian Photobook of the Year Award in 2011, and the New Zealand Photobook of the Year Award in 2016, then combined them into a single award in 2018. Entries were open to Australian and New Zealand photographers, publishers and students for books designed or published between January 2017 and December 2018. The Award celebrates excellence, originality and 'fitness for purpose' in photo books. To date, \$113,500 in prizes has been distributed to 130 Award finalists.

*Visit the official website at [anzphotobookaward.com](http://anzphotobookaward.com) for more details.*

### **Momento Pro**

Momento Pro is Australia's most established and awarded print-on-demand photobook company. They have produced world class books and albums, in quantities of one up to 250, for Australian and New Zealand consumers, enthusiasts and photography professionals for 15 years. The company has been listed in the BRW Fast Starters and CHOICE Recommended Photobook Survey multiple times, they co-hosted the first photo book festivals in the region (Photobook Melbourne 2015 and Photobook New Zealand 2016) and now advise on how to self publish photo books in the antipodes.

*Visit [momentopro.com.au](http://momentopro.com.au) or [momentopro.co.nz](http://momentopro.co.nz) for more details.*

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HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD AT

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=10IUFEzU9PVwytvVwDONkSo213W870A>

**Row 1:** Winner + Finalist books: Group, Winners highlighted, All, Photobook, Student

**Row 2:** Photobook Winner: *Second Sight*

**Row 3:** Photobook Commended: *Huon*

**Row 4:** Student Winner: *ROYGBIV*

**Row 5:** Student Commended: *Craigieburn, it's all the same*

