

# Creed hoping for Archibald



A FACEBOOK friendship inspired artist Cheryl Creed to enter Australia's most prestigious portrait prize, the Archibald, with a painting of Murri screen artist Jenny Fraser. "Over the past 10 years I have carried a wish to be recognised as a portrait artist," Ms Creed, a descendant of the Gungahri, Pitta-Pitta, Qandamooka and Bindal people, said.

"It became important to me to learn how to visually document my people and capture their individual characters as a form of documenting Aboriginal history from a visual perspective."

Hundreds of entries were received for the Archibald Prize, which closed on Friday and is exhibited from March until June at the Art Gallery of NSW, with the award given to the best portrait 'preferentially of some man or woman distinguished in art, letters, science or politics'.

Being hung as a finalist in the \$75,000 prize is considered an achievement.

Aboriginal people have featured on both ends of the paintbrush in this year's entries, with Indigenous artists like Creed entering works, and as subjects, including opera singer Deborah Cheetham and boxer Anthony Mundine.

Ms Creed's subject, Jenny Fraser, founded cyberTribe online gallery, which exhibits internationally, and was recognised as a prolific Indigenous Keeping Place in the Regional Museums Awards in 2009. She was awarded an honourable mention at the 2007 imagineNATIVE Film Festival, Toronto, Canada and is set to challenge audiences again with her upcoming Australia Council fellowship project *Midden*.

"Initially we were Facebook friends, and I had asked Jenny if she would like to sit for me and feature in my planned portrait," Ms



Cheryl Creed's portrait of Murri screen artist Jenny Fraser

Creed said. "We are both based in Cairns, and Jenny also invited me to present my artworks in an exhibition she curated in Cairns titled 'Love Local Murri' last August.

"My portrait of Jenny Fraser reflects a lot of the background history appearing in my work, this approach is deliberate, a quality of techniques which reflect of Aboriginal history, illustrative of Australian history, conveying the hidden picture of the unseen truths of fragmented accounts of the past not fully documented or shared about Aboriginal people.

"Capturing Jenny's likeness through the use of this manner of style and technique, is a significant reflection of the history of Aboriginal past that can never be covered up, or removed, the scaffolding of time, hardship, struggle, progression, achievements and continuity."

Ms Fraser said she was honoured to have her portrait painted by Ms Creed and she hoped she made it as a finalist.

The Art Gallery of NSW will name the finalists, and the Packing Room Prize Winner, tomorrow, 14 March, with the winner named on 22 March.