

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | July 2017

BROOKE WALKER
FINE ART

0423 634 882 | brookewalker.com.au
@brookewalkerart brooke.walker.art
brooke@brookewalker.com.au

LOCAL ARTIST WINS AWARD AT INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE ARTIST OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

Local Fleurieu artist Brooke Walker has won the Hidden World category at the 2017 Wildlife Artist of the Year awards in London on 27 June 2017.

Brooke took out the category - which is a celebration of remote and rarely observed or lesser known landscapes and species - for her painting *Okapia Johnstoni*, which the judges described as "a beautifully textural image that gives a glimpse into the life and habitat of a rare species".

Only two Australians were shortlisted, with Brooke the only South Australian. There were over 1000 worldwide entries, and a shortlist of 163.



"I chose to paint the Okapi as I was completely mesmerised by them after seeing one for the first time in the San Diego Zoo in March 2016," says Brooke.

"Previous to that, I didn't even know they existed with a lot of people who have seen the work asking if it was a real animal or if I had just merged a zebra and giraffe.

"Okapi's are the only living relative of the giraffe and live lives of solitude in the dense forest of the Democratic Republic of Congo. They weren't discovered as a species until 1901 and are considered endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species but are difficult to count accurately because of how elusive they are."

Celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2017, the Wildlife Artist of the Year competition brings together the world's best wildlife artists exploring seven exciting categories. The breathtaking collection of works that celebrate and champion endangered species is a stunning and stark reminder of how much we could lose if we do not protect the natural world and its wildlife.

Okapia Johnstoni sold at the exhibition opening, with 50% of the sale price being donated to the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation to assist their vital conservation work.

Continued over leaf

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | July 2017

BROOKE WALKER
FINE ART

0423 634 882 | brookewalker.com.au
@brookewalkerart brooke.walker.art
brooke@brookewalker.com.au

"I have always had a great love of animals and nature, stemming back to my childhood on a hobby farm in McLaren Vale," says Brooke. "As an adult, I am greatly concerned about wildlife and conservation throughout Australia and beyond.

"I feel more needs to be done to preserve these great creatures for future generations. It is my mission to use my art to subtly educate people on the decline of our great animal species.

Brooke works in both charcoal pencil and oil paint, in a highly detailed and realistic style, capturing the beauty of the wildlife.

For more on Brooke's work, go to: www.brookewalker.com.au

For an interview with Brooke, and/or images, call 0423 634 882 or email brooke@brookewalker.com.au

written by Heather Millar
www.zestcommunications.com.au



Booke & David Shepherd CBE FRSA



David Shepherd CBE FRSA with presenter and award winners