

January 21, 2012

NEW MUM WINS \$20,000 ART COMPETITION

SPRINGFIELD Lakes artist Jessica Gossner has just enjoyed one of the biggest weeks of her life.

A few days after giving birth to her own little masterpiece, baby daughter Harper; Jessica discovered she had won Brisbane's most prestigious new art award, the Metro Property Development and Pearls Australasia \$20,000 Art Competition.

"I was absolutely shocked," she said. "It was a great start to the New Year."

Jessica, who was chosen from a field of 17 finalists, was presented with her \$10,000 first prize by Lady Mayoress Anne Quirk at a presentation this week. The \$5000 second prize went to Adam Lester of Highgate Hill and the \$3,000 third prize to Elizabeth Burton of Sunnybank Hills. Highly commended prizes of \$1,000 went to Roslyn Kennedy of Deception Bay and John Garnsworthy of Norman Park.

In keeping with the competition's urban renewal theme, Jessica's winning entry, an acrylic painting titled *Urban Renewal Brisbane*, depicts some of Brisbane's most famous urban renewal sites, including Fortitude Valley's Emporium, Southbank and China Town.

Jessica said she had always been passionate about art. Born and raised in Canada, Jessica studied fine art at the Ontario College of Art and Design in Toronto. She has been living in Brisbane for the past 12 years and owns her own business, Jesyka's DNA - Design and Art.

Her striking artwork is now gaining major attention in Brisbane.

"It's very exciting to find an artist of Jessica's calibre in our own backyard," the Lady Mayoress said. "Jessica is extremely talented and her winning entry is vibrant and colourful. It perfectly captures the spirit of the urban renewal theme."

Metro Property Development executive chairman David Devine said the art competition was inspired by urban renewal projects in the inner city like Metro Property Development and Pearl Australasia's Brooklyn on Brookes residential apartment complex in Fortitude Valley.

"Our aim was to celebrate this exciting period of urban renewal in Brisbane's history," he said.

"Brisbane is undergoing rapid changes, with many of its inner city industrial areas being transformed into attractive residential precincts. At Brooklyn on Brookes, we have strived to create a modern and innovative building while still retaining the character of and heritage of the surrounding area.

"The art competition has been a huge success and has allowed us to capture our city's growth at this time."

The inaugural Metro Property Development and Pearls Australasia \$20,000 Art Competition was decided by a panel of five judges, including renowned artist Cliff Sheldrake.

Mr Sheldrake said the selected paintings showed imagination, a good variance of styles, techniques and subject matter.

"They also displayed a professional approach to design and draftsmanship," he said.

The winning entries from the art competition will be displayed at Brooklyn on Brookes sales office at the corner of Brookes and Ann Street, Fortitude Valley.

For more information on Brooklyn on Brookes visit www.brooklynonbrookes.com.au

ENDS: Media enquiries to Ken Woodley on (07) 3224 9111