



# Protect the Gardens of Stone

“Say NO to open cut mining!”



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**MEDIA RELEASE: For immediate release**

## **"Gardens of Stone inspires winner of Fleurieu Art Prize"**

The stunning pagodas of the Gardens of Stone provided the inspiration for this year's winning piece in the internationally acclaimed Fleurieu Landscape Art Prize. The scenic area has been recognised as 'internationally significant' and 'iconic' in past months and is now in the international spot-light thanks to local artist, Julie Harris.

The Fleurieu Art Prize is the world's richest award for landscape painting. It was established in 1998 and attracts interest from artists worldwide. The winner of this years \$50,000 Fleurieu Landscape Art Prize depicts impressions of the western Blue Mountains, NSW in her piece '*Pagodas at Newnes*'.

"I was inspired to paint after bushwalking through the Gardens of Stone with a local guide. The first thing I recall was seeing the fantastic and incredibly long Blackfellows Hand Cave and the aboriginal cave art that appear there," says Julie Harris.

"I also experienced the viewpoint from the top of the rock formations known as the 'Temples of Doom'. From up there, I was struck by the intriguing, eastern flavour of the pagoda structures and just how amazing and beautiful they are. After I returned home, the painting just came to life on canvas as I worked in my studio in the Blue Mountains.

"I'm appreciative of the work the Blue Mountains Conservation Society and other groups are doing to protect this area. It truly is a magical place," concludes Julie.

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society has been campaigning to protect the Gardens of Stone and create opportunity for nature-based recreation and tourism, offering a positive economic vision for the area under conservation management.

"The Gardens of Stone has certainly had much acclaim during 2011; its pagodas were deemed 'internationally significant' in a scientific paper in May; environment groups recognised it as 'iconic' in a report released in November, and now its found to be the inspiration for an internationally revered art prize winner" says Justin McKee of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society.

"It is important that future generations may enjoy and be inspired by all the Gardens have to offer."

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- **View the artwork 'Pagodas at Newnes' here:** <http://bit.ly/s1zlo5>
- For more information about the Gardens of Stone campaign: <http://bit.ly/sK6RaM>
- For further information about Julie Harris go to: [www.julieharris.com.au](http://www.julieharris.com.au)
- For more information about the Fleurieu Art Prize go to:  
[http://www.artprize.com.au/images/index\\_43\\_2376095215.pdf](http://www.artprize.com.au/images/index_43_2376095215.pdf)