



A Top Mix of WA Contemporary Art a Winner

On Friday night the Art Gallery of WA celebrated contemporary Western Australian art and artists with a crowd of more than 700 guests at the opening of *remix*, which featured a special inaugural award made by the Collectors Club in honour of highly respected Curator, the late John Stringer.

The Stringer Award winner is Brendan van Hek. A Highly Commended was also awarded, to Paul Caporn.

The Award of \$5,000 was judged from the 20 *remix* artists', by a judging panel of: Chair of the Art Gallery of Western Australian Board Fiona Kalaf; President of the Collectors Club, Ronal Hawkins; and Curator of the Murdoch University Art Collection, Mark Stewart.

The Collectors Club's Stringer Award will support an outstanding Western Australian contemporary visual artist as a tribute to the legacy of John Stringer the award will promote his vision for the visual arts in Western Australia.

The judging panel was particularly taken with Brendan's work *Great White Hope* 2010, hand-blown white neon glass. This work has just returned from a showcasing at the TarraWarra Museum of Art in Victoria, following its purchase last year through the TomorrowFund, Art Gallery of Western Australia Foundation, 2010.

The Gallery's exciting contemporary exhibition *remix* showcases the creativity of twenty contemporary Western Australian artists of diverse backgrounds, age and experience.

The exhibition includes a broad mix of media with painting, sculpture, design, photography, textile and filmic work, most of it new or recently created and representing some of the most compelling examples of contemporary practice by Western Australian artists.

The Collectors Club

The Collectors Club of approximately 60 like-minded members was formed in 1966 by the late John Stringer. John was an internationally recognised art curator who came to Western Australia after a distinguished career in Victoria at the National Gallery and New York at the MOMA. He was initially Curator of Contemporary Art at the Art Gallery of WA then curator of the Kerry Stokes Collection until his death in 2007.

He established the Collectors Club as a means of promoting the visual arts in WA through a club based on informed collecting. He was passionate about contemporary art and wanted others to share his enthusiasm and his knowledge by supporting Australian artists - and particularly Western Australian artists - by collecting.

The Collectors Club was born and its success has been amazing when measured by the amount of art purchased, the support for emerging artists, the number of tours interstate and overseas

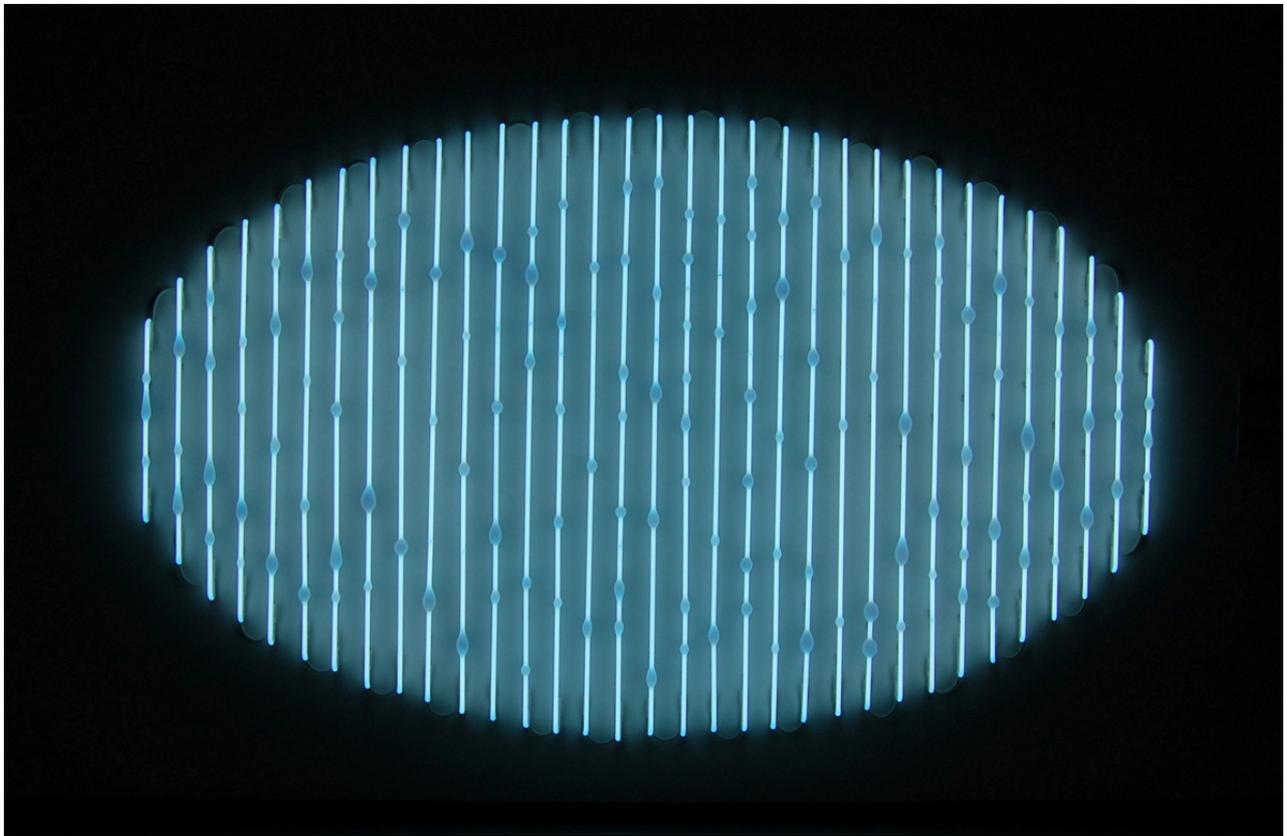
and the enthusiastic promotion of art generally, has more than justified John's vision. The Club encourages an active membership participating in such activities as gallery previews with the artists available for discussion, visits to artists studios, invitations to attend functions where visiting artists speak, visits to members' homes to view and discuss their collected art and tours to art festivals in Australia and overseas.

There is a responsibility on each member to attend these activities whenever possible and to purchase at least one piece of art per year. The art is hung at the annual Show and Tell exhibition where each member speaks briefly about their purchase.

Artists' Talks in May

Join us for free talks in the *remix* exhibition space on **Sunday 1 May and Sunday 15 May from 2pm**. Hear insightful and interesting talks by Western Australian artists about their contemporary practice. See our website for full program details: artgallery.wa.gov.au

remix is on display at the Art Gallery of Western Australia 16 April – 15 August 2011.



Brendan van Hek
Great White Hope 2010
hand-blown white neon glass
State Art Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia
Purchased through the TomorrowFund, Art Gallery of
Western Australia Foundation, 2010
© Brendan van Hek, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INTERVIEWS AND IMAGES CONTACT:

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