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Melbourne University Staff / Student E-news

University News

**Artworks celebrate 50 years of veterinary learning**

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Exhibition curator, Purnima Ruanglerbutr (centre) with participating artists in the Artful World of Animals exhibition held in University Hall. Lead image: Cash, 2013 by Dawn Perry.

**A new exhibition at the University has explored the heartfelt and complex relationship humans have with animals.**

The exhibition The Artful World of Animals, celebrates 50 years of teaching at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Australia's oldest veterinary school. It included an art competition, which featured photos and artwork of dogs, donkeys, tigers, wild birds and more.

The idea for an art competition came from Professor Bruce Parry, who was inspired by the late Professor Douglas Charles Blood's magnificent photographs of wild bird species.

"The late Professor Blood was the founding dean of the modern incarnation of our Vet school 50 years ago. He was a professor of agricultural animal medicine. He was not only a dedicated scientist, he was also an exceptional artist," Professor Parry said.

"Together with art curator Purnima Ruanglerbutr, we put out a call to the larger veterinary industry to see if other vet scientists were also artists. The brief was to look at the importance of animals to human culture," he said.

"The diversity of work and the collective artistic creativity of the participants exceeded our expectations."

The exhibition featured work by 35 artists, mostly from the vet industry, and some local professional artists. The artworks included prints, video, textiles and installation art as well as a section dedicated to Professor Blood's magnificent images.

The exhibition coincided with the Festival of Ideas and ran from 27 September to 7 October at University Hall.

The competition and exhibition has supported by the University of Melbourne Faculty of Veterinary Science, the Veterinary Society and Royal Canin Manufacturers. The winning artists in each media category received a small cash prize.

Joseph Galbally, president of the Melbourne University Veterinary Society said, "As veterinarians and animal scientists we are charged with being the protectors and custodians of the animal species cohabiting our planet, and caring for their health welfare and wellbeing. This exhibition identified our sensitivity towards the animal species and how we interpreted our relationship with them."

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