

The **Blake Prize for Religious Art** is an annual [art](#)
Art

Art is the process or product of deliberately arranging elements in a way that appeals to the senses or emotions. It encompasses a diverse range of human activities, creations, and modes of expression, including music, literature, film, sculpture, and paintings...

[prize](#)

Prize

A prize is an award to be given to a person or a group of people to recognise and reward actions or achievements. Official prizes often involve monetary rewards as well as the fame that comes with them...

.
The prize was established in 1949 as an incentive to raise the standard of religious art, founded by Mr R. Morley, the Reverend Michael Scott SJ, Rector of [Newman College](#)

[William Blake](#)

William Blake

William Blake was an English poet, painter, and printmaker. Largely unrecognised during his lifetime, Blake is now considered a seminal figure in the history of both the poetry and visual arts of the Romantic Age. His prophetic poetry has been said to form "what is in proportion to its merits the...

. The first Blake Prize was won by Justin O'Brien in 1951.

The Blake Exhibitions have been a regular travelling exhibition around Australia, visiting various major cities and provincial galleries.

The award of the Blake Prize to Charles Bannion in 1954 for his "[Judas Iscariot](#)" was one of the most controversial in its history; this opened controversy over what constituted religious art and over "[abstract expressionism](#)"

Abstract expressionism

Abstract expressionism was an American post-World War II art movement. It was the first specifically American movement to achieve worldwide influence and put New York City at the center of the western art world, a role formerly filled by Paris....

" which threatened to overwhelm the exhibition.

The prize is administered by the Blake Society.

List of winners

- 1961 Stanislaus Rapotec - Meditating on Good Friday