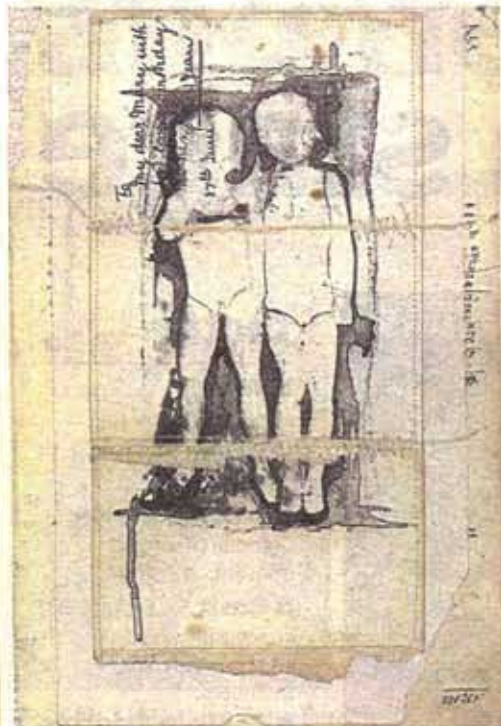


# Prized portraits on the wall



An entry in this year's RACT Insurance Tasmanian Portraiture Prize is *Reflections* by Selena de Carvalho.



Susannah Hart's *Jimmy and Susannah* is another artwork that will be part of the portraiture prize.



*Bring Me Back the Magic* by Catherine Peacock is also one of this year's entries in the portraiture prize.

## Art contest bigger and better than last year

IN ITS second year, the RACT Insurance Tasmanian Youth Portraiture Prize is already bigger and better.

Rhys Cotterill from Tasmanian Regional Arts said 2009 has seen an increase in entries from last year.

Artists paint a living Tasmanian who inspires them for their artwork.

Rhys said young artists choose a lot of

university professors, teachers and friends and last year there was a portrait of prominent Bob Brown.

As well as a diversity of subjects, the artists also use a range of materials.

Last year one entrant used paint samples to create their portrait.

This year Rhys said there has been a few electronic entries as well.

The competition is a huge opportunity for young artists.

"It's a big leap for students to get their art out there," he said.

He said from last year, one or two entrants had their work selected to hang in a gallery.

The entrants are wide-ranging from semi-professional artists to students.

THE entries are in. Judges have shortlisted the entries for the RACT Insurance Tasmanian Youth Portraiture Prize.

From the 60 entries received, the judges have whittled it down to 33 to exhibit.

Devonport is the first port of call for this travelling exhibition.

The judges are Adriane Boag, from the National Gallery of Australia, and two Launceston judges, Helene Weeding from the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery and Kim Schneiders from Interweave Arts.

The Devonport Regional Gallery is hosting the opening of the exhibition.

It's the first time the portside city will host the prize — last year it was exhibited in Burnie.

Leah Tierney, from RACT, said the location will change from year to year, but will always be hosted in three locations statewide, so it's accessible for people from the North-West, North and South.

In a cocktail-style party the winner and runner-up will be announced on September 4.

The exhibition will be on display in the gallery until September 20.

Next, the exhibition will move to Launceston's Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, where the sponsors' choice award will be announced.

Lastly, the exhibition moves to Hobart at the Sidespace Gallery where the people's choice award will be announced.

Entries jumped from 43 last year to 60 this year.

"Art teachers are encouraging students to enter art," Leah said.