MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Award-winning artist commissioned for official portrait of former Prime Minister the Hon Julia Gillard AC

The Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) has contracted artist Vincent Fantauzzo to complete the official portrait of former Prime Minister the Hon Julia Gillard AC for the Historic Memorials Collection.

Born in England in 1977, Mr Fantauzzo holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting and a Masters of Fine Arts from RMIT University, Melbourne. In 2008, his portrait of actor Heath Ledger won the Archibald’s People’s Choice award. A six-time Archibald Prize finalist, Mr Fantauzzo won the People’s Choice award again in 2009, 2013 and 2014 as well as the 2011 Packing Room Prize. He also won the Doug Moran Portrait Prize in 2011 with a painting of filmmaker Baz Luhrmann. In his most recent exhibition in 2016 Mr Fantauzzo collaborated with a number of significant senior Indigenous artists from across central Australia to create portraits that not only encapsulated a likeness of the subject but also incorporated aspects of each artist’s country and culture. Mr Fantauzzo lives and works in Victoria. This is his first commission for the Historic Memorials Collection.

The Historic Memorials Collection is Australia’s longest-running art commissioning program. Founded by Prime Minister Andrew Fisher in 1911, the collection has commissioned portraits of the Head of State, Governors-General, Prime Ministers, Speakers and Presidents for more than 105 years.

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