Chief Minister Clare Martin today congratulated Darwin-based artist, Catherine Ann Paton for winning the 2002 Portrait of a Senior Territorian Art Award - $1,000 People’s Choice Award for the most popular portrait, with a painting depicting the Honourable Austin Asche AC QC.

The painting titled "Passionately Devoted" attracted twenty percent of votes cast by the public and depicts the former Darwin Primary School student, Northern Territory Administrator and Judge, in a relaxed and contemplative moment, reading.

The 2002 Portrait of a Senior Territorian Art Award, which was exhibited in the Main Hall of Parliament House from 2 – 11 December, received 34 entries from artists around the Territory, including 9 from Alice Springs, 3 from Katherine, 3 from Palmerston, 2 from Pine Creek and 1 from Nhulunbuy.

A total of over 800 visitors were recorded as viewing the exhibition in the ten days that it was on display and over half of them took the time to vote for their favourite portrait. Whilst competition for the People's Choice was fierce, "Passionately Devoted" attracted substantially more votes than any other entry.

"I am delighted that such an outstanding Territorian has been honoured in this way. The Hon Austin Asche AC QC has offered so much to the Territory community over the years. This prize is not only a reflection of the artist’s skill but also a tribute to the popularity of her subject," said Ms Martin.

The annual exhibition, first held in 1999, continues to grow in support and quality of entries from Territory artists and is proving to be highly enjoyable and much appreciated by Territory audiences.

All Territory visual artists are encouraged to begin planning and creating their Portrait of a Senior Territorian Art Award entry for 2003.

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