**TV AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**

A drawing of a fish and a guitar

Description automatically generated**A drawing of a fish

Description automatically generatedA drawing of a fish and sea creatures

Description automatically generatedFANTASTICAL SHARKS & RAYS OPENS AT THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM**

Greenback stingaree Arwen Brown Lined lanternshark Zara Pease Fiddler ray Leah Djikic

**WHAT** Fantastical Sharks & Rays exhibition launch and preview

**WHERE** Australian Museum, 1 William Street, Sydney

**WHEN** **Friday 6 September, 10am**

**WHO** Artists **-** Ken Done, Blak Douglas, Sarah & Sebastian, Jennifer Turpin, Billy Bain, Dion Horstmans, Rosie Deacon and Dylan Mooney.

Australian Museum Director & CEO, Kim McKay AO, AMCS shark expert Dr Leonardo Guida

**PHOTOS** Children and artists seeing their works for the first time in the Australian Museum gallery

To raise awareness and help protect Australia’s unique lesser-known and endangered species, the Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) and Humane Society International Australia ran a competition last summer asking budding da Vincis to create an artwork depicting one of 10 of them.

* The 10 young winners of the Fantastical Shark & Rays children's art competition will see their portrayals of Australia’s lesser-known and endangered sharks and rays reimagined by renowned artists including Done, Douglas, Sarah & Sebastian, Jennifer Turpin, Billy Bain, Janet Laurence, Dion Horstmans, Rosie Deacon, Dylan Mooney and Jonathan Zawada.
* Exhibition at the Australian Museum from 7 September (National Threatened Species Day) until 8 December, 2024.
* Over 1500 children entered the Fantastical Sharks and Rays art competition

The young winners are:

**NSW: Southern/eastern fiddler ray** Leah Djikic, 11, Goulburn, NSW. **Maugean skate** Iluka Michel, 9, Sydney. NSW.

**Yellowback stingaree** Maya Haysom-McDowell, 10, Sydney, NSW.

**QLD: Eastern angelshark** Gryff Nolan, 9, Brisbane. QLD. **Greeneye spurdog** Oliver McIntyre, 7, Sunshine Coast, QLD. **Greenback stingaree**Arwen Brown, 10, Sunshine Coast, QLD.

**NT**: **Lined lanternshark** Zara Pease, 13, Darwin, NT.

**VIC: Whitefin swellshark** Inara Wilson, 4, Melbourne, VIC.

**SA: Longnose skate** Eightrielle Escalona, 9, Adelaide, SA.

**WA: Melbourne skate** Barnaby Snow, 10, Margaret River region, WA.

Artists: [Ken Done](https://kendone.com.au/about.php), [Blak Douglas](https://blakdouglas.com.au/about/), [Janet Laurence](https://www.janetlaurence.com/bio), [Jennifer Turpin](https://turpincrawfordstudio.com.au/about), [Sarah and Sebastian](https://www.sarahandsebastian.com/pages/profile), [Billy Bain](https://www.billybain.com/about), [Jonathan Zawada](https://zawada.art/), [Rosie Deacon](https://rosiedeacon.com/bio/), [Dion Horstmans](https://dionhorstmans.com/about/) and [Dylan Mooney](https://artguide.com.au/dylan-mooneys-astoundingly-intimate-beautiful-scenes/)

For more information or interviews contact: AMCS media advisor Alex Tibbitts: [alextibbitts@amcs.org.au](mailto:alextibbitts@amcs.org.au) / 0416 420 168

AM media advisor Claire Vince: [Claire.vince@australian.museum](mailto:Claire.vince@australian.museum) / 0468 726 910  
Visit [AMCS](https://www.marineconservation.org.au/fantastical-sharks-rays-exhibition/) to learn more about this fantastical competition.