



VIEW IT / CHAN-DAVIES ART PRIZE
WHERE: Chan + Hori Contemporary, 02-09 Gillman Barracks, 6 Lock Road
WHEN: Saturday to Aug 19. Show opens 5 to 7pm on Saturday; Sunday to Aug 19: 11am to 7pm (Tuesdays to Fridays) and noon to 6pm (weekends), closed on Mondays and public holidays
ADMISSION: Free
INFO: www.chanhori.com

Mumbai-born Dipali Gupta (above right) won for *O Her!* (above), video works that look at female sexuality in settings similar to still-life paintings. PHOTOS: DIPALI GUPTA AND CHAN + HORI CONTEMPORARY, @9AND3QUARTERSPRAJVA (PRAJVAL J)

\$30,000 gallery prize for rising artists

Akshita Nanda
 Arts Correspondent

Singapore-based visual artists Dipali Gupta and Gemma Kearney have won the fourth edition of the annual Chan-Davies prize, worth \$30,000.

The prize is given by Chan + Hori Contemporary gallery to two graduating artists from Lasalle College of the Arts. Each winner receives \$15,000 in cash and an exhibition at the Gillman Barracks gallery, which runs from Saturday to Aug 19.

The Chan-Davies Art Prize was introduced in February 2015 by gallery director Angie Chan and her husband Nick Davies, the gallery chairman.

The 2015 award was won by Irish artist Jennifer Mehigan.

From 2016, two separate prizes were awarded, one each to a student from the bachelor of arts cohort and master's cohort.

This year, Mumbai-born Gupta, 41, is the winner from the bachelor's batch and will showcase *O Her!*, video works looking at female sexuality in the context of traditional still-life paintings and stereotypes.

An advertising industry professional who turned to the arts to find her tribe, Gupta says the prize has "helped me improve the quality of my works without worrying about the financials".

She adds: "I am grateful to be given this opportunity. Actually, I wasn't expecting to win. I felt encouraged



Irish artist Gemma Kearney (left) won for *It's Grand Mother*, a 3.2m by 1.6m sculpture of a stylised crow (far left). PHOTOS: GEMMA KEARNEY AND CHAN + HORI CONTEMPORARY, JONATHAN CHOO

that the idea was recognised and rewarded."

Irish artist Kearney, 34, who graduated with a master's degree in fine arts from Lasalle this year, won with *It's Grand Mother*, a 3.2m by 1.6m sculpture of a stylised crow.

It refers to her mother's maiden name (Crow) as well as myths in which the crow is seen as a disruptor and associated with women.

She calls her work "playful misbehaviour".

"It's a comment on familial relationships between mother and daughter, but it's not a rejection outright of the mother. It rejects normativity and asks if you are able to construct a different narrative."

Kearney's career as an artist was

an alien concept to her parents – her father is a deliveryman and her mother works in a shop – but she says the minute her father saw an image of *It's Grand Mother*, he recognised it for his wife. "I'm not going to show it to my mother," the artist says with a laugh.

She is expanding on the installation and including observers –

painted fabric on sticks – for the show at Chan + Hori Contemporary.

She has also used the prize to pay rent on a studio space, so that she can keep living and working in Singapore. "The prize means everything to me," she says. "It's an absolute dream prize. I never expected to get anything like this. It's given me freedom."