

Contractor

October 2007

Page 6



TEN road workers from civil and road maintenance contractor Sharpe Bros have selected the winner of the 2007 Roadworkers Prize at the Gosford Regional Gallery. Jason Hodge, a road worker and one of the judges, said he and his colleagues selected Huang He's 'Silent City' because of the quality of the painting and because the image appealed to them.

"The streetscape depicts a six-lane highway during an unusually quiet moment," Hodge said. "We're always out fixing roads that are busy with traffic and noisy with machinery. It's good to reflect on the stillness and peacefulness of the road in the painting."

Sharpe Bros managing director Michael Sharpe said it had been a stretch to get the crew to the gallery this year as they had been busy fixing road edges all over the Central Coast and Hunter regions. "However, the guys do take their jobs as art critics just as seriously as they take their jobs as road repairers," he said. "Even though many people said they wouldn't get past the nude portraits."

Earlier this year, Sharpe Bros announced it would continue its proud association with the

Gosford Regional Gallery by pledging \$25,000 over the next five years to support Australian artists.