

Moment of rural majesty sparks win



MOSAIC: Jacob Leary with his *Self Portrait with My Hand*.

PORTRAITS of politicians, journalists and toddlers paled beside *Self Portrait with a Cow* at a new Tasmanian art prize.

Hilton Owen, 19, last night won the first RACT Insurance Portrait Prize.

Owen, of Rose Bay, said he wanted to reproduce a memorable moment in his life.

"There was a great feeling that came over me with being in a dry, dusty Richmond paddock next to a cow," he wrote with his entry.

"My mood was one of happiness, excitement and curiosity."

He won \$5000 and a trip to Sydney to view the Archibald Prize for Portraiture.

Runner-up was Ulverstone's Susannah Hart, also with a self-portrait.



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And Jacob Leary could be forgiven if he never wanted to see another paint colour chart again in his life.

Weeks of painstaking effort



THE WINNER: Hilton Owen, of Rose Bay, with *Self Portrait with a Cow*.

Picture: RAOUL KOCHANOWSKI

creating his self-portrait with a mosaic of hardware-store colour chips paid off when he won the Organiser's Award.

"This one took about four to five weeks of pretty intense eight to 10-hour days of cut-

ting and sticking with double-sided tape," Leary said.

He won \$500 and the RACT has bought his self-portrait for \$1800.

Judges were Archibald winner Geoff Dyer, Devon-

port Regional Gallery's Josie Hurst and Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board chairman Saul Eslake.

"The youth are brave, not held by conscious factors and in the artists' statements

there isn't that pretension that I think can happen with artists of an older age," Dyer said.

The entries will be at Salamanca's Sidespace Gallery from tomorrow until April 14.