

Art from the Heartlands



FINE ARTIST... Artist, Painter and Sculptor, Nickel Mundabi Ngadwa will enter this year's Heartlands Refugee Fine Art Prize. Pictured, Nickel with two of his paintings 'Hope' (left) and 'Passion' (right). Photo: Alicia Zeqir.

By David Lee

NOW in its third year and showcasing the expression of aspirations for talented refugees who have arrived in Australia since 1970, this year's Heartlands Refugee Fine Art Prize is now open for submissions.

Shepparton resident and one of the state's finest artists, Nickel Mundabi Ngadwa will again be entering the prestigious art awards for the third consecutive year, winning third prize at the 2010 AMES Heartlands Fine Art Prize for his oil on canvas, 'Hopeless Smile' and short listed for his piece 'Sky at Sunset' in 2011.

Arriving in Shepparton with his wife, Gertrude and

children three years ago from his home country, the war-ravaged Democratic Republic of Congo, Nickel spoke with *The Adviser* explaining his passion for artistry and the country of Australia.

"Art for me is the expression of the heart. The colours and shades that an artwork contains symbolises the harmony of all cultures," Nickel said.

Entries close Friday, April 20 with winners announced at the exhibition launch on Tuesday, June 5. For more information call 9188 3681, visit www.multiculturalarts.com.au/heartlands or email fiesta@multiculturalarts.com.au.