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## Exhibition celebrates the art of survival

Minister for Health the Hon. John Della Bosca and Sandra Sully will open a unique exhibition on behalf of the National Stroke Foundation at Parliament House today.

The Stroke of Art exhibition is about the journey of recovery and features the work of Australian artists and stroke survivors Judi Halliday, Nick Safstrom and one of the nation's leading painters and sculptors, Robert Juniper.

The artworks will be supported by hundreds of messages of faith, hope and courage from Australians touched by stroke.

Among the messages from stroke survivors, their family, friends and carers are hand written words of inspiration from well known Australians.

**NSW Premier Nathan Rees, Sandra Sully**, Masterchef judge **Gary Mehigan** and actress **Michala Banas** have all contributed messages, as has tennis great **John Newcombe** who survived a stroke five years ago.

"I was lucky as my stroke was not too serious. It was a warning and I made sure I changed some bad lifestyle habits," said John Newcombe.

"For recovery self-belief, confidence, courage and good friends plus family are essential. You can overcome!"

Since it began in 2003, Stroke of Art has been testimony to the courage of stroke survivors in the face of significant transformation.

Contributing artist Robert Juniper has exhibited five times since surviving a stroke seven years ago. For Stroke of Art he created a piece aptly title Faith, Hope, Courage, which is also the theme of the exhibition.

"Stroke is Australia's second biggest killer and a leading cause of disability," said Dr Erin Lalor, Chief Executive Officer of the National Stroke Foundation. "Stroke of Art is about the journey of recovery and acknowledges the challenges overcome by stroke survivors of all ages."

The Stroke of Art exhibition will run in Foundation Court at Parliament House NSW until 28 August.

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