

# New \$150,000 prize for art

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arts reporter

A CHANCE meeting of two men in Mosman has led to an art competition with a cash prize of \$150,000.

Karsten Knorr of Balmoral and Benjamin Jung of Manly met at an art exhibition at Mosman Art Gallery and got talking about art projects.

Both men are from Germany and are so passionate about their new home city they decided to set up a competition to find a painting that epitomises Sydney.

So they established the Signature of Sydney project, which they say is the biggest art competition in Australia.

Jung, a marketing executive, said the winning painting should capture the *stadtgeist* (the city spirit or vibe) of Sydney.

"Of course a single painting can't capture every aspect of Sydney," he said.

Knorr said he had dreamt of living in Sydney since he was a

boy and had not been disappointed.

"The lifestyle in Sydney is very different from any other city - every weekend here is a vacation," he said.

"The people are warm and friendly and you are accepted immediately."

Knorr said he ran an advertising agency in Berlin before moving to Australia two years ago.

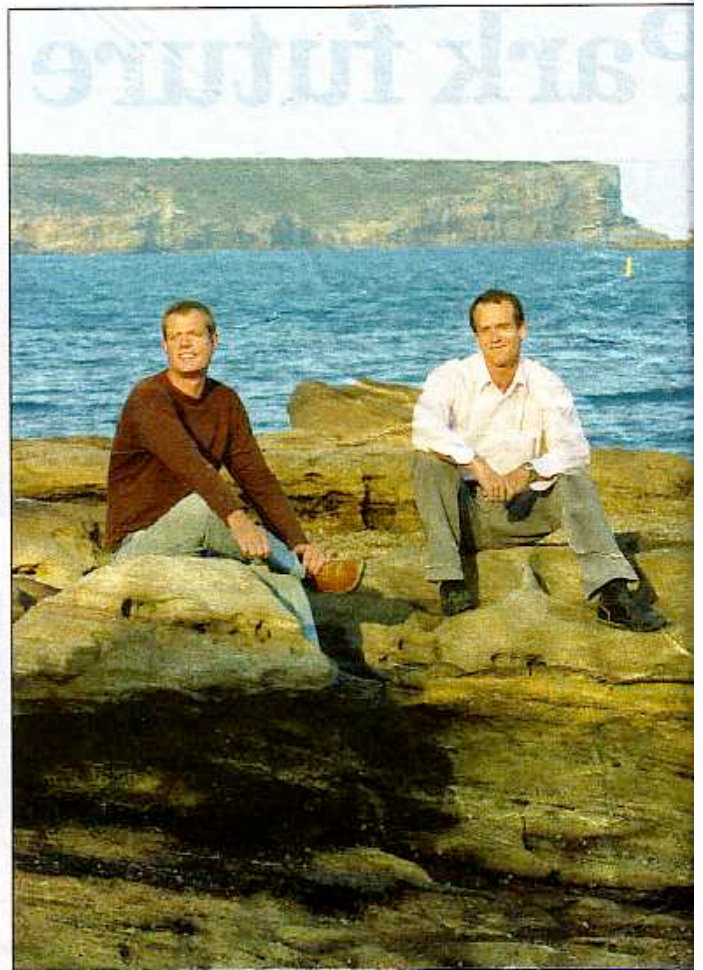
The two men didn't see anything strange in two European men initiating a Sydney art project.

"Sometimes you need a fresh eye," Knorr said.

Paintings for the competition should be entered by February 6 and the competition is open to any Australian over the age of 18, whether an established artist or an unknown.

An exhibition of 50 of the entries next year and the auction of the winning work would help raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Knorr said.

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Karsten Knorr and Benjamin Jung have created a new art prize.

Picture: SARAN