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Prize pieces: Annie Hsiao-Wen Wang with some of her artwork at the fundraising exhibition at Burswood this weekend.

Picture: Ian Ferguson

Following her passion pays off for young artist

STEPHEN BEVTS

Annie Hsiao-Wen Wang's decision to give up her job as an engineer to focus on painting has paid big dividends with her first major art prize.

She has won the \$5000 Young Artists With Artitude acquisitive prize as part of a major charity exhibition at Burswood Entertainment Complex.

Born in Taiwan and raised in

Perth, the 29-year-old worked for several years as an engineer before returning to university to study fine art.

"I worked really hard and saved up enough for me to dedicate this year just to art," she said. "I have always wanted to pursue art as a career but had kind of chickened out and set on engineering as a career that would make me a decent living. I do enjoy engineering but my passion is for art."

Wang's winning colour-field oil painting *Amadeus* was inspired by Buddhist meditation and the music of Mozart. It will feature this weekend in an exhibition of more than 250 artworks in the Artitude exhibition to raise money for the Telethon Speech and Hearing Centre.

Curator Norah Ohrt, from Perth Galleries and Sotheby's, said Artitude began 10 years ago as a charity event featuring

mainly amateur artists but had evolved to focus on collectable works from leading names.

"It is like a comprehensive tasting plate of what WA art galleries have to offer," she said.

The exhibition is at Burswood's Astral Ballroom tomorrow between 10am and noon. Tickets to a preview cocktail party and charity auction tonight are \$100 and can be ordered on 0409 887 039 or 9387 9888.