

Olympic 'Oscars of the art world'



COLOURFUL... Sylvia Ditchburn's painting has been selected as part of the Beijing Olympic Games fine art exhibition

SYLVIA Ditchburn might not have made it to Beijing but she'll be getting her gold medal in the mail.

Ms Ditchburn is just one of 300 artists worldwide who have been selected to submit pieces to the official Olympic Fine Arts exhibition in China.

While Ms Ditchburn was too busy setting up her new gallery to attend, she will receive a medal and torch replicas from the Games.

Ms Ditchburn's work *Time of Falling Leaves* will be on display in Beijing for around two years after the Olympics and will help

raise money for the Sichuan earthquake appeal.

"It seems the program they have lined up is the Oscars of the art world so I'm regretful I couldn't make it," Ms Ditchburn said.

"But I still feel very honoured to have been chosen for such a great project.

"My work was inspired by a garden the Forbidden City which I saw while on my art residency in Beijing last year so I thought it very appropriate."

Ms Ditchburn said artists were required to submit work based on selected topics.

"The themes we were asked to comply with were either the Olympics or China and the world.

"I'm mostly a landscape artist and while I was in China I became entranced by the way most of their trees were propped up with these poles which gave the gardens a very ethereal feeling.

"We didn't have to but I chose to donate my painting because I want to support the earthquake appeal and also I think the Chinese will have a greater understanding and appreciation of it than Australians might."