



Embargoed until 7pm Friday Oct 23

**MEDIA RELEASE:
Winner announced for major small sculpture prize**



The winner for the **2009 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize** has been announced. Now in its ninth year, the \$10,000 acquisitive award has been won by Alexander Seton for his realistic sculpture in Bianca Marble *I...U*. According to Seton, the marble carving considers notions of self-presentation and communication. Seton won the 2008 Special Commendation Prize.

I...U by Alexander Seton

Judges for this year are Neil and Diane Balnaves of the Balnaves Foundation, and Geoffrey Cassidy, Director of Artbank, who said, "Always a difficult decision given the quality of the works and diverse range of styles. In the end the decision was unanimous; it is an outstanding example of the artist's work; intelligent in concept and flawlessly executed."

Also announced is the *Special Commendation*, a \$2,000 non-acquisitive award that went to Stephen Bird for *Breakfast Hero*, a multifaceted ceramic figurine decorated with a broad palette of rich colour. The judges commented on Stephen's novel use of the medium, wit and historical references which combine to make a work that is lively, humorous and also fine.

The judges also made special mention of *High Tea 2009* by Huseyin Sami and *Dead Sea* by Ken Yonetani.



Breakfast Hero by Stephen Bird

The winners were chosen from 43 finalists, which make up the exhibition to be held at the Woollahra Council Chambers from **October 24 to November 1**.

The *Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize* totals \$13,000 across 3 categories:

- The *Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize*: an acquisitive award of \$10,000
- The Special Commendation: a non-acquisitive award of \$2,000
- The Viewers' Choice: a non-acquisitive award of \$1,000

The Viewers' Choice Award will be announced at the conclusion of the exhibition.

Opening: Friday October 23 at 6pm (by invitation only)

Winner and the Special Commendation Award announced

Woollahra Council's historic Redleaf building, 536 New South Head Road, Double Bay.

Exhibition: 24 October to 1 November 2009 (9am - 5pm weekdays; 10am-4pm weekends)

Woollahra Council's historic Redleaf building, 536 New South Head Road, Double Bay.

Free Entry

(more)

Artist Floor Talks: Saturday 24 October at 2pm

A selection of 2009 finalists will be conducting free community floor talks at the exhibition between 2 and 4pm. Free Entry. Bookings, 02 9391 7166

Kid's Day Out: Sunday 1 November 10am-2.00pm. Free family cultural event featuring the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize and Environmental Schools Sculpture Prize.

The 2009 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize receives generous support from the following

Sponsors: John Symond, Sanchia Brahimi, Ashdel Properties Pty Limited, Lucy and Malcolm Turnbull, American Express, Megacolour and Hugonnet Design Associates.

Supporters: Wentworth Courier, Stoneleigh Wines, Pasta Pantry and Westfield Bondi Junction

<http://sculptureprize.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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