

## **Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize announces 2014 finalists**

- 14<sup>th</sup> year of award attracts record number of entries and international submissions -



Images: Emily Floyd, *Abstract Scholar*, 2014; Peculiar Anness, *Seraph*, 2014; Sherrie Knipe, *On the Verge*, 2014

*Sydney, Australia:* The Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize, presented by Woollahra Council, today announced 45 emerging and established artists as finalists for the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Prize and exhibition. The finalist group was selected from a record number of entries this year including artists from Australia, Hong Kong, USA, the United Kingdom, and Italy, highlighting the Prize's growing international reputation.

The innovative submissions – each for a freestanding sculpture of up to 80cm in any dimension – were selected from 597 entries by a judging panel comprised of Carriageworks Director Lisa Havilah, former Director of Sotheby's Australia, Justin Miller and philanthropist Gretel Packer.

Carriageworks Director, Lisa Havilah said: "I am drawn to the ideas presented within the work and I also admire the technical ability of some of the work I have seen."

Justin Miller commented: "The effort that artists go to is inspiring. We have seen a great breadth of work - from the environmental theme to funny and technically beautiful."

Gretel Packer said: "I think we have selected a diverse range of entries."

The exhibition will be on view, free to the public, from 18 October until 2 November 2014 at the Woollahra Council Chambers in Sydney.

Prize money has increased this year to a total of \$19,000 across four categories. The Prize categories are the main Acquisitive award of \$15,000; a Special Commendation award of \$2,000; the Viewers' Choice award of \$1,000; and the new Mayors Award of \$1,000.

The 2014 Woollahra Sculpture Prize finalist artists are: *Peculiar Annes* featuring Janet Parker-Smith, Claude Jones and Cleo Gardiner (NSW); Tully Arnot (NSW); Gunjan Aylawadi (NSW); Stephen Bird (NSW); Annette Blair (NSW); Linda Brescia (NSW); Merric Brettle (VIC); Will Coles (NSW); Peter Cooley (NSW); Micaldo Combriani (NSW); Lynda Draper (NSW); Merran Esson (NSW); Neil Evans (NSW); Emily Floyd (VIC); Leah Fraser (NSW); Xia Gao (USA); Natalie Guy (NZ); Titania Henderson (VIC); James Jameson (QLD); Freya Jobbins (NSW); Sherie Knipe (VIC) Miroslav Kratky (NSW); Dinni Kunoth Kemarre (WA); Camie Lyons (NSW); Alasdair Macintyre (QLD); Simon McGrath (NSW); Callum Morton (VIC); Kendal Murray (NSW); Mee-Sum Kim Park (NSW); Nicky Parras (NSW); Kirsteen Pieterse (HK); Guido Pigni (ITALY); Campbell Robertson-Swann (NSW); Sangeeta Sandrasegar (VIC); Sharnie Shield (NSW); Morgan Shimeld (NSW); Liz Shreeve (NSW); Melissa Smith (TAS); Abdullah Syed M I (NSW); Yusuke Takemura (NSW); Natalie Thomas (VIC); Peter Vandermark (ACT); Bridgid Vidler (UK); Craig Waddell (NSW); Ben Young (NSW).

Melbourne based artist Emily Floyd, whose well-known work explores design, typography, protest, public art and the legacy of Modernism, will present a meticulously crafted small sculpture titled, *Abstract Solar*, 2014. Using carefully stacked wooden blocks, Floyd forms an architectural assemblage of handmade letters the spell out the sculpture's cryptic title, 'Abstract Labour', an open-ended invitation to consider the energy of the sun and contingent material potential.

Collaborative artists, *Peculiar Annes*, featuring Janet Parker-Smith, Claude Jones and Cleo Gardiner have created *Seraph*, a piece that aims to engage the viewer in a dialogue that considers the human relationship with that of the non-human animal. This dialogue suggests a rethinking of the cultural positioning of animals in zoos, in testing laboratories, in agriculture, in the shrinking wilderness and deep within ourselves.

Milan based artist Guido Pigni's work, titled "D-WAR-F" depicts the Gartenzwerg (garden dwarf), a figure that originated in Germany in 19th century. Reduced to a knick-knack size and dressed in camouflage uniform, the dwarf represents the loss of any social and economic personal identity in a time where all certainties and hopes seem to have vanished.

Tully Arnot's, *Nervous Plant*, is an artificial plant with motors attached at the base of each branch. These motors cause the artificial leaves to move, activating the inanimate object making it appear at the same time more alive and more mechanical. The work explores reality and unreality in our technology dependent society, which is increasingly defined by online interactions and relationships with robots or Artificial Intelligences.

A full listing of finalists in the 2014 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize is available at <http://sculptureprize.woollahra.nsw.gov.au>

*Ends*

**MEDIA CONTACT:** To request artist biographies, interviews, imagery and information in relation to the Prize, please contact Anna Shapiro, [anna@articulatepr.com.au](mailto:anna@articulatepr.com.au) or Kym Elphinstone, [kym@articulatepr.com.au](mailto:kym@articulatepr.com.au) 0421 106 139.

**EXHIBITION DETAILS:** A free exhibition of all the finalist sculptures will be presented at Woollahra Council Chambers from 18 October until 2 November 2014. The main winner will be announced at a media call on 16 October 2014, with further details to be provided closer to the time.

**BACKGROUND ON THE PRIZE:** The Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize is a national prize for sculptures of smaller dimensions and has attracted strong support from artists, collectors, benefactors, critics, as well as the local community. The Prize was initiated in 2001 by Council to support, promote and celebrate artistic excellence, but also to encourage the local community to access the then, newly renovated Woollahra Council Chambers. The Prize attracts local, national and international entries each year.

The 2014 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize is generously supported by Principal Sponsor Mark Moran Vauclose, Gold Sponsors John Symond AM and Sanchia Brahimi and Silver Sponsors Ashdel Properties Pty Ltd and Catalina Rose Bay.