

Embargoed until 7pm Friday October 21

MEDIA RELEASE:

Winner announced for Australia's most prestigious small sculpture prize

The
Woollahra
**Small
Sculpture
Prize**



Pas de deux – Perspex, display screen, video, sealed battery, steel castors

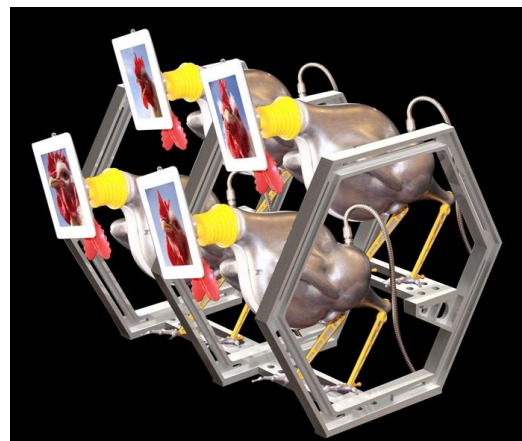
The winner for the **2011 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize** has been announced. The \$10,000 acquisitive award has been won by Margaret Seymour for her sculpture *Pas de deux*. Positioned at ankle height, the screen displays a video of two feet walking. The video represents one dancer and the viewer is the other. The viewer is invited to manoeuvre the object around the exhibition space, thereby becoming a performer. *Pas de deux* references the cautious approach and retreat, or give and take 'dance' involved in negotiating difficult social and personal interactions.

Margaret is a Sydney artist and a lecturer at Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney.

Judges for this year were Dr Gene Sherman AM, Executive Director of the Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, and Professor Ted Snell AM, Chair of the Visual Arts Board of the Australia Council, Director of the Cultural Precinct for the University of Western Australia. According to Dr Sherman, "Margaret Seymour's moving image work was admired by both judges. The work's poetry, interactivity, collaborative approach (referencing ballet's 'pas de deux') and the meshing of a crafted surface with 21st century technology, allows the piece to reach a broad audience whilst retaining a quiet intimacy."

Also announced is the *Special Commendation*, a \$2,000 non-acquisitive award that went to Jason Christopher for *Battery Hens*. This is a darkly satirical poke at the automated food industry. It is also an expression of the reality that natural evolution can never keep pace with technology.

The judges also highly commend two other works, *Scrunch/Paper Ball* by Tully Arnot and *Microcosmos* by Perran Costi.



Battery Hens – video, audio, aluminium, plastic and various proprietary items

The winners were chosen from 40 local and international finalists, which make up the exhibition to be held at the Woollahra Council Chambers. The free public exhibition showcasing the finalists runs for two weeks from **Saturday 22 October to Sunday 6 November**.

(More)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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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 will be announced at the conclusion of the exhibition.

Opening: Friday 21 October 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: 22 October to 6 November 2011 (9am-6pm weekdays; 10am-4pm weekends)

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

Free Entry

Artist Floor Talks: Saturday 22 October at 2pm

A selection of 2011 finalists will be conducting free community floor talks at the exhibition between 2 and 4pm. Free entry. sculpture@woollahra.nsw.gov.au.

Kid's Day Out: Sunday 23 October 10am-2pm. Free family cultural event featuring the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize and Environmental Schools Sculpture Prize.

Environmental Schools Sculpture Prize: Local schools are invited to participate in this prize and this year's theme is Sustainable Production and Consumption.

The 2011 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize receives generous support from the following

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

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