

Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize announces 2018 judges

- Call for entries closes 6 July 2018 for emerging & professional sculptors -



Sydney, Australia: The Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize, Australia's pre-eminent national award for small sculpture presented by Woollahra Council, has announced two new guest judges for 2018 along with a prize pool of \$24,000. A free exhibition of finalist works for the 18th annual Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize will be presented from 19 October until 11 November 2018 at the historic Woollahra Council Chambers in Double Bay, Sydney.

The 2018 Prize judges will be respected Australian arts administrator **Michael Lynch AO CBE**, whose previous roles have included Director of Sydney Opera House, CEO of West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, Hong Kong and Chief Executive of London's Southbank Centre. Mr Lynch will be joined by **Amanda Love**, Director of independent Art Advisory Loveart, Artspace board member and former board member of the Biennale of Sydney. The Love private collection of international and Australian contemporary art was exhibited at Casula Powerhouse Museum in 2011.

The Prize attracts a diverse range of professional and emerging sculptors from around the world with a total of \$24,000 in prize money awarded to winning artists across four categories: the main acquisitive award of \$20,000; a Special Commendation award of \$2,000; the Viewers' Choice award of \$1,000; and the Mayor's Prize of \$1,000.

Michael Lynch AO, CBE said: *"For the past 18 years the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize has attracted some of Australia's most exciting contemporary artists creating new, original works in the medium of sculpture. The Prize offers a platform for artists to experiment with their practice and I feel privileged to be invited to judge this year's entries."*

Amanda Love said: *"The Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize has distinguished itself as a critically significant award for small sculpture from Australia and abroad. It provides artists with a means with which to explore, understand and concentrate their ideas and viewers with a valuable and assessable bench mark whereby current sculptural practice can be surveyed and critically assessed."*

Established in 2001, the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize attracts strong support from artists, collectors and critics and is the first national acquisitive prize showcasing quality and diversity of smaller dimension sculptures. Entries will be invited until 6 July 2018, with artists required to submit images of their original, freestanding sculpture of up to 80cm in any dimension.

More than 600 Prize entries from national and international artists are received annually with around 45 finalists' works presented in the exhibition. The main Prize winner in 2017 was Sanné Mestrom for her work *Self Portrait (Sleeping Muse)*. Previous winners also include Jan King (2002), Mikala Dwyer (2003), Louis Pratt (2006), Adam Cullen

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(2008), Alexander Seton (2009), Archie Moore (2010), Thor Beowulf (2012), Julia deVille (2013), Robert Owen (2015) and Todd Robinson (2016).

Now in its 18th year, the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize is hosted by Woollahra Council to provide free public access to sculpture and to support, promote and celebrate artistic excellence.

The 2018 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize is proudly supported by Principal Sponsor, Mark Moran Vaucluse and Gold Sponsors John Symond AM and D'Leanne Lewis, Principal of Laing and Simmons Double Bay + Bondi Beach.

For further details of the Prize visit: <http://sculptureprize.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/>

Ends

MEDIA CONTACTS: To request interviews, imagery and information in relation to the Prize, please contact Articulate: Megan Bentley, megan@articulatepr.com.au, 0452 214 611 or Kym Elphinstone, kym@articulatepr.com.au, 0421 106 139.

EXHIBITION DETAILS: A free exhibition of all the finalist sculptures will be presented from Saturday 20th until Sunday 11 November 2018 at the Woollahra Council Chambers. Finalists will be announced in August 2018 and the winners will be announced at the launch of the exhibition on 19 October with further details to be provided closer to the time. A series of Artists' Talks and Community Workshops will be presented as part of the program.

2018 JUDGES' BIOGRAPHIES:

Michael Lynch AO CBE is an Australian Arts administrator, former Director of Sydney Opera House and former CEO of West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, Hong Kong. He was Chief Executive of London's Southbank Centre from 2002 until 2009 and was responsible for the major renovation of Royal Festival Hall and the transformation of the Southbank cultural precinct. Previously, Michael held positions as Chief Executive of the Sydney Opera House, General Manager of the Australia Council and General Manager of the Sydney Theatre Company. From 2011 to 2015 he was Chief Executive of the West Kowloon Cultural District, an ambitious project which will see a huge arts precinct built on the shores of Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour. Michael is currently Chairman of Circa, Chairman of the Sydney Community Foundation, and a Board Director of Belvoir Theatre.

Amanda Love is the Director of independent Art Advisory Loveart and is currently on the board of Artspace, Sydney. She served on the Board of the Biennale of Sydney, Australia's largest contemporary art event, for over 10 years during which time critical acclaim increased and attendances more than tripled. A former arts lawyer, Amanda practiced in Sydney with Allens and Arthur Robinson (now Allens) and in Hong Kong with Deacons. She has a Masters in Fine Arts (Hons) and holds the Christies Diploma of Fine Art. An accredited valuer under the Federal Government's Taxation Incentive Scheme for the Arts for over 20 years, her expertise includes Australian and international modern and contemporary art. Amanda has spoken as an expert on contemporary art in Australia and overseas, including at the State Library NSW, National Gallery of Scotland, Arco in Madrid, the MCA Sydney, the AGNSW, and Melbourne's Heide Museum. She has lectured for Christies Australia and regularly advised on Australian Art Collector Magazine's 50 Most Important Artists selection Panel. A passionate collector, Amanda has played a founding role in the now flourishing contemporary benefaction groups at the AGNSW (Contemporary Collection Benefactors) and MCA (Directors Working Circle). The Love private collection of international and Australian contemporary art was exhibited publicly at the Casula Powerhouse Museum, Sydney in 2011, and regularly loans works for exhibition.