

Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize announces 2016 finalists



Louis Pratt, *Loss*; Julie Rrap, *One Hand Making the Other Hand (Instrument Series)*; Emma Coulter, *construction #7 (shifting test patterns)*; Owen Leong, *Force Field (amygdala)*; Stephen Benwell, *Statue, blue arm*; Joan Ross, *The right to roam*

Sydney, Australia: The Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize, Australia's pre-eminent national award for small sculpture presented by Woollahra Council, today announced 46 finalists for the 2016 Prize, selected from 614 entries.

Selected by the 2016 guest judges – CEO and Group Fairs Director of Art Fairs Australia **Barry Keldoulis**, Senior Curator at Macquarie University Art Gallery **Rhonda Davis** and Ambassador for the visual arts and cultural icon, **Wendy Whiteley OAM** – the finalist works showed innovation and diversity in their take on an original, freestanding sculpture measuring up to 80cm in any dimension.

The judges said: *"The 2016 prize entries included a wide range of materials both new and traditional, adapted to contemporary aesthetics and interests."*

This year's finalists include well-known artists such as Del Kathryn Barton, Louis Pratt, Rodney Pople, Craig Waddell and Joan Ross who will be exhibited alongside emerging artists. Works spanned a range of materials including stone, ceramic, paper, thread, wire, metal, resin and electronic detritus. The works address political, social, personal and playful themes and showed a high standard.

The 2016 finalist artists are: Andrew Rogers (VIC); Alan Constable (VIC); Alan Rose (NSW); Andrew Southall (VIC); Carol Lehrer Crawford (NSW); Craig Waddell (NSW); Cyrus Tang (VIC); Daniel Templeman (QLD); David Capra (NSW); Del Kathryn Barton (NSW); Dinni Kunoth Kemarre (WA); Emma Coulter (VIC); Glenda Kent (SA); Hugh McLachlan (TAS); James Parrett (VIC); Jan Downes (NSW); Jason Waterhouse (VIC); Joan Ross (NSW); Julie Rrap (NSW); Jurek Wybraniec (WA); Kirsten Pieterse (Hong Kong); Kris Coad (VIC); Lauren Brincat (NSW); Louis Pratt (NSW); Louise Haselton (SA); Louise Kerr (NSW); Lucy Barker (NSW); Lynda Draper (NSW); Nerissa Lea (TAS); Owen Leong (NSW); Peter Zappa (WA); Phil Cousins (VIC); Philip Jarvis (NZ); Rocket Mattler (NSW); Rodney Pople (NSW); Rose Nolan (VIC); Seb Brown (VIC); Shane Forrest (NSW); Sherna Teperson (NSW); Stephen Benwell (VIC); Stephen Bird (NSW); Susanna Strati (NSW); Tetsuro Yamasaki (Japan); Todd Robinson (NSW); Walter Auer (NSW); Yioryios (NSW).

The Prize attracts a diverse range of professional and emerging sculptors from around the world with a total of \$19,000 in prize money awarded to winning artists 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; the Mayors Prize of \$1,000 and two highly commended awards courtesy of sponsor InterContinental Sydney Double Bay.

A free exhibition of finalist's art works for the 16th annual Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize will be presented from 15 October until 30 October 2016 at Woollahra Council in Sydney. The winners will be announced on 14 October 2016.

Mayor of Woollahra, Councillor Toni Zeltzer said the Prize provides an ideal opportunity for new and emerging artists, as well as established sculptors, to showcase their talent.

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"The Prize is an opportunity for us to enjoy and acknowledge the creative talents of artists living in our local community and abroad," the Mayor said.

Established in 2001, the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize attracts strong support from artists, collectors and critics and is the only national acquisitive prize showcasing quality and diversity of smaller dimension sculptures. Previous winners of the Prize include Robert Owen (2015), Julia DeVille (2013), Mikala Dwyer (2003), Louis Pratt (2006), Adam Cullen (2008), Alexander Seton (2009), Archie Moore (2010) and Thor Beowulf (2012).

The Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize is the leading national award for an original, freestanding sculpture of up to 80cm in any dimension. Now in its 16th year, the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize is hosted by Woollahra Council to support, promote and celebrate artistic excellence. For further details of the Prize visit:
<http://sculptureprize.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/>

The Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize receives generous support from Principal Sponsor Mark Moran Vaucluse and Gold Sponsors John Symond AM, Belle Property Group Double Bay and the InterContinental Sydney Double Bay.

Ends

MEDIA CONTACT: To request interviews, imagery and information in relation to the Prize, please contact Jasmine Hersee, jasmine@articulatepr.com.au, 0406 649 393 or Kym Elphinstone, kym@articulatepr.com.au, 0421 106 139.

EXHIBITION DETAILS: A free exhibition of all the finalist sculptures will be presented from 15 October until 30 October 2016 at the Woollahra Council Chambers. The winners will be announced on 14 October 2016.

2016 JUDGES' BIOGRAPHIES:

Barry Keldoulis is the CEO and Group Fairs Director of Art Fairs Australia and has had more than three decades experience in the world of contemporary art. Barry started his career in New York where he worked as the Private Secretary and Chief of Staff for the Honorable Henry Geldzahler, Commissioner of Cultural Affairs for the City of New York, and the first Curator of 20th Century Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. After 15 years in America and Europe, Barry returned to Australia where he worked at Djamu, a branch of the Australian Museum, dedicated to exhibiting their Indigenous collections alongside contemporary Indigenous art. Barry then entered the commercial world as a Senior Manager, Collections Development for Sherman Galleries.

In 2003, he opened his own gallery to fill a gap in opportunity for young artists to exhibit between artist-run spaces and the major commercial galleries. Artists from his stable are represented in all the state galleries and the National Gallery of Australia, and now exhibit in museums and private galleries around the world. In 2013 Barry was appointed the CEO and Director of Sydney Contemporary, Australasia's international art fair. Barry is also the Chairman of the National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA).

Rhonda Davis is the Senior Curator at Macquarie University Art Gallery. She has curated numerous exhibitions including major ones such as Central Street Live, Berowra Visions: Margaret Preston & Beyond, Virtual Encounters: Paula Dawson Holograms, A Man for All Seasons: Rollin Schlicht Retrospective, co-curator of Sixties Explosion and more recently was co-curator and project manager for the exhibition Affinities: 7 Museum, 50 Objects nominated the winner of the 2014 Museums and Galleries National Award. Rhonda is currently undertaking a PhD in the social history and impact of the Central Street Gallery 1966-1970 including the production of several exhibitions that centre on this period.

Wendy Susan Whiteley OAM is best known as the "goddess muse" and wife of the artist Brett Whiteley and as the

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mother of their daughter, the actress Arkie Whiteley (1964 – 2001). She has become a notable cultural figure, particularly since her ex-husband's death in 1992. She posed for Brett many times, and his work was strongly influenced by her opinions. Although they divorced three years before he died, she has control of Brett Whiteley's estate including the copyright to his works, and she honoured his memory in the establishment of the Brett Whiteley Studio in Surry Hills, Sydney, which is now owned and managed as an art museum by the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Wendy Whiteley is also known for the restoration and landscaping of derelict railway land in Lavender Bay, Sydney, which she turned into a "magic garden" and where Brett and Arkie Whiteley's ashes were scattered.