

## Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize announces 2015 finalists – National sculpture award attracts record entries in its 15<sup>th</sup> year –



Robert Owen, *Symmetria #37*; Matt Dabrowski, *The Milk of Stormtroopers*; Adrian Clement, *Play*; Stephen Bird, *Figure of Self Reflection 1*; John Nicholson, *Mal*; Guan Wei, *To The Origin*

Sydney, Australia: The Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize, Australia's pre-eminent national award for small sculpture presented by the Woollahra Council, today announced 43 finalists for the 2015 Prize, selected from a record number of 701 entries received this year.

Selected by two of the 2015 guest judges – art advisor and curator Barbara Flynn along with collector and philanthropist Penelope Seidler AM– the finalist works showed innovation and diversity in their take on an original, freestanding sculpture measuring up to 80cm in any dimension. The third guest judge for the 2015 Prize, Art Gallery of NSW Director Dr. Michael Brand, will join the judging process at the winners selection in October.

This year's finalists include well-known artists such as Guan Wei, Robert Owen, John Nicholson, Kathy Temin and Stephen Bird who will be exhibited along side emerging names. Works spanned a range of mediums featuring taxidermy, intricately folded paper works, found objects and traditional woven sculptures created by Tjanpi Desert Weavers. The works address political, social, personal and playful themes and showed a high standard.

"We found the artists to be more inventive with their use of alternative materials, with a transfer of materials from the everyday to art," commented Barbara Flynn.

Penelope Seidler added: "The standard of finalists is highly creative and shows an intriguing use of materials with a wide range of concepts explored. The traditional form of 'sculpture on a plinth' was not one we warmed to this year as judges. We felt that sculpture has moved on from that," said Seidler.

The 2015 finalist artists are: Adrian Clement (NSW); Alli Symons (SA); Anita Larkin (NSW); Anita Reay (QLD); Annette Thas (WA); Anthea Williams (VIC); Aprile Alexander (NSW); Arenaria (NSW); Belinda Winkler (TAS); Carmel Wallace (VIC); Eli Braga (Brazil); Fiona Hueston (NSW); Fleur Brett (VIC); Glen Clarke (VIC); Guan Wei (NSW); Holly Dormor (NSW); Huseyin Sami (NSW); Hwanhee Kim (Finland); James and Eleanor Avery (QLD); John Nicholson (NSW); Julia deVillie (VIC); Kathy Temin (VIC); Kendal Murray (NSW); Lisa Giles (NSW); Mark Booth (NSW); Matt Dabrowski (QLD); Melissa Cote (NSW); Michelle Cawthorn (NSW); Michelle Ussher (UK); Penelope Campbell (VIC); Robert Owen (VIC); Rocket Mattler (NSW); Roma Butler (NT); Rosalind Byass (VIC); Ruby Aitchison (VIC); Serena Bonson (NT); Sophie Carnell (TAS); Stephen Bird (NSW); Titania Henderson (VIC); Tracey Deep (NSW); Veronica Andrus-Blaskievics (ACT); Wendy Black (VIC); Yioryios Papayioryiou (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 new highly commended awards courtesy of sponsor InterContinental Sydney Double Bay.

A free exhibition of finalist's art works for the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize will be presented from 10 October until 25 October 2015 at Woollahra Council Chambers in Sydney. The winners will be announced on 9 October 2015.

"Celebrating creativity and sharing it with the community are at the heart of Council's decision to host the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize. We are looking forward to showcasing a diverse selection of works as part of our free public exhibition in October," the Mayor of Woollahra, Councillor Toni Zeltzer 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 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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, Gold Sponsors John Symond AM, Sanchia Brahim, Belle Property Group Double Bay and the InterContinental Sydney Double Bay.

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**MEDIA CONTACT:** To request 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 from 10 October until 25 October 2015 at the Woollahra Council Chambers. The winners will be announced on 9 October 2015.

**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. Expert advice and recommendations for management of the Prize is sought from the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize Committee who meet approximately five times a year as well as attend key milestones in the delivery of the Prize. In its fifteen-year history, the Prize has successfully established an important position in the yearly national sculpture competition calendar. The Prize attracts local, national and international entries each year.

#### **2015 JUDGES' BIOGRAPHIES:**

**Michael Brand:** Dr Michael Brand serves as the ninth Director of the Art Gallery of New South Wales. An international art scholar and cultural leader, Michael's commitment to the arts is evident in his significant contribution to Australian and international art and in his work that spans art museums and academia as well as the government, philanthropic and community sectors. As the Gallery approaches its 150th anniversary in 2021, Michael's vision for the institution is to enhance its

cultural, social and economic vibrancy while advancing its national and international reputation as an innovative art museum that welcomes and engages diverse local and global audiences. Prior to his Art Gallery of New South Wales appointment Michael was consulting director of the new Aga Khan Museum in Toronto while it was under construction. Before this he worked as director of the world-renowned J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles from 2005–2010.

**Penelope Seidler:** Penelope Seidler combines the aesthetics and practical skills of an architect with the financial skills of an accountant. Her particular interests are international and Australian contemporary and ethnographic art, which she collects. She is directly responsible for commissioning artists for projects of Harry Seidler & Associates and has an intense concern for both the built and natural environments. She has travelled widely as Director of Harry Seidler & Associate and has a working knowledge of international arts organisations through her board membership and long association with the Museum of Modern Art, New York and more recently in Europe through the MAK in Vienna.

**Barbara Flynn:** Since arriving in Australia in 1996, Barbara has drawn on an extensive network of contacts to assist Australia-based artists to enlarge the audience for their art. Since 2008 Barbara has worked with artists, architects and the Australian property development sector to realise works of public art for new office tower developments in the Sydney City at 1 Bligh Street, 8 Chifley Square, and 161 Castlereagh Street. She is art advisor to Frasers Property Australia and Sekisui House for Central Park and to AMP Capital for Quay Quarter Sydney. Barbara acts as Curatorial Advisor to the Barangaroo Delivery Authority and Lend Lease for Barangaroo. As Curatorial Advisor to the City of Sydney for the City Centre (2013-16), she has analysed the role art can play and identified artists to be part of the transformation of Sydney as George Street is progressively pedestrianised and light rail is implemented.