

## Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize announces 2017 finalists



IMAGE CAPTIONS: Huseyin Sami, *Untitled (Winter Sculpture)*, 2017; Peter Cooley, *Pelican 1*; Abdul-Rahman Abdullah, *Black Dog*; Guy Maestri, *Facsimile (Self Portrait)*

**Sydney, Australia:** The Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize, Australia's pre-eminent national award for small sculpture presented by Woollahra Council, today announced 47 finalists for the 2017 Prize, selected from 675 entries, the second highest number of entries in prize history.

The finalists have been selected by 2017 guest judges – curator, writer, artist, activist and first Indigenous judge for the Prize **Djon Mundine, OAM**, Executive Director, Artspace, Sydney and Curator, Encounters, Art Basel | Hong Kong **Alexie Glass-Kantor**, and gallerist and benefactor **Roslyn Oxley, OAM**. The judges found the finalists works showed innovation and diversity in their take on an original, freestanding sculpture measuring up to 80cm in any dimension.

**Djon Mundine, OAM said:** *"We're in an age where there are so many gigantic artworks, so many gigantic projections, that it's really good for something that focuses on 'the god of small things'. I was very honoured to be invited into this specialised project as one of the judges."*

**Alexie Glass Kantor said:** *"The Prize has a tremendous legacy of supporting a level of extraordinary ambition and an absolute breadth of practices in and around the realm of sculpture. It's a real privilege to be a judge in this kind of award. You understand that artists are producing extraordinary works in the field of sculpture and you want to do an honour to these artists. We've had a lot of interesting debate selecting this year's finalists, which is really important because if art doesn't prompt debate what does it do?"*

**Roslyn Oxley, OAM said:** *"It's dynamic, people come, people love it, it's something to see and exposes you to new and exciting young artists. Judging is quite interesting and it's been interesting to see all the different materials this year's entries have used. Having been in the industry for 35 years, it's always exciting to see new, original works as a judge. Especially for the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize, as it has cultivated some of Australia's best contemporary artists."*

This year's finalists include well-known artists such as winner of the 2009 Archibald Prize Guy Maestri, Abdul-Rahman Abdullah, Louis Pratt, Rodney Pople and Tracey Deep 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 show a high standard.

The 2017 finalist artists are: NOT (NSW); Abdul-Rahman Abdullah (WA); Sally Blake (ACT); Lauren Brincat (NSW); Angela Butler (NSW); Penny Byrne (VIC); Peter Cooley (NSW); Selena de Carvalho (TAS); Tracey Deep (NSW); Mariana del Castillo (NSW); Lynda Draper (NSW); Mark Dubner (NSW); Merran Esson (NSW); Emma Fielden (NSW); Stevie Fieldsend (NSW); Trevor Fry (NSW); Natalie Guy (NZ); Lizzie Hall (NSW); David Hamilton (TAS); Michael Harrell (NSW); Tevita Havea (NSW); Sergio Hernandez (NSW); Bianca Hester (NSW); Alison Hill (QLD); Phil James (NSW); Michelle Kirk (NSW); Mike Kitching (NSW); Rene Kulitja (NT); Claire Lambe (VIC); Guy Maestri (NSW); Sanné Mestrom (VIC); Dan Moynihan (VIC); John Nicholson (NSW); Karin Olah (NSW); Kenny Pittock (VIC); Rodney Pople (NSW); Louis Pratt (NSW);



Madeleine Preston (NSW); Julia Robinson (SA); Giles Ryder (VIC); Huseyin Sami (NSW); Michael Snape (NSW); Andrew Southall (VIC); Abdullah Syed M I (NSW); Richard Tipping (NSW); Mark Titmarsh (NSW); Peter Vandermark (ACT).

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 Prize categories are the main acquisitive award, increased this year from \$15,000 to \$20,000; a Special Commendation award of \$2,000; the Viewers' Choice award of \$1,000; and the Mayors Prize of \$1,000.

A free exhibition of finalist's art works for the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize will be presented this year for an increased period of three weeks, from 14 October until 5 November 2017 at Woollahra Council in Sydney. The winners will be announced on 13 October 2017.

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.

"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 first national acquisitive prize showcasing quality and diversity of smaller dimension sculptures. Previous winners of the Prize include Todd Robinson (2016), 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 hosted by Woollahra Council to provide free public access to sculpture and 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 Vaocluse and Gold Sponsors John Symond AM, Belle Property Group Double Bay and Scott Farquhar and Kim Jackson.

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**MEDIA CONTACT:** To request interviews, imagery and information in relation to the Prize, please contact Jasmine Hersee, [jasmine@articulatepr.com.au](mailto:jasmine@articulatepr.com.au), 0406 649 393 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 Saturday 14 October until Sunday 5 November 2017 at the Woollahra Council Chambers. Winners will be announced at the launch of the exhibition on Friday 13 October with further details to be provided closer to the time. A series of Artists' Talks will be presented as part of the program.

**VIDEO:** A video of the 2017 judging process can be found and shared through the following links  
<https://vimeo.com/227593025>  
[https://www.dropbox.com/s/bvrfo0vc6noou2r/WSSP%202017\\_3.mp4?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/bvrfo0vc6noou2r/WSSP%202017_3.mp4?dl=0)

#### **2017 JUDGES' BIOGRAPHIES:**

**Alexie Glass-Kantor** is Executive Director of Artspace, Sydney, a kunsthalle space committed to supporting the commissioning of contemporary art, exhibitions, publishing initiatives, and research residencies for artists and curators



through the provision of a dedicated studio program. Since 2000 she has curated or co-curated over one hundred exhibitions across independent spaces, collecting institutions, biennials and festivals, collaborating with international artists across generations to develop projects throughout the Asia-Pacific, Europe and North America. Prior to her appointment to Artspace she was Director–Senior Curator, Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne, and Curator, Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Melbourne. She is currently Curator of the Encounters installation sector for Art Basel | Hong Kong 2015—2018.

**Roslyn Oxley, OAM**, Gallerist and arts benefactor has been a leading dealer in contemporary art in Sydney since 1982. She has driven the Gallery's commitment to promoting cutting-edge contemporary art, winning critical and commercial recognition for the Gallery's artists both in Australia and overseas. Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery artists have gone on to be some of the very best practitioners in Australian contemporary art, such as Tracey Moffatt, Bill Henson, David Noonan, Patricia Piccinini, Dale Frank, Fiona Hall, Destiny Deacon, James Angus, Newell Harry, and TV Moore. For over two decades Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery has been maintaining a presence at selective international art fairs such as Art Cologne, Hong Kong Art Fair, Art Basel, The Armory Show and Frieze New York. As well as being a significant art dealer, Roslyn Oxley has been a board member of a number of high profile arts organisations such as the Melbourne Art Fair and has also been invited to participate on Advisory Committees established by the Australia Council for the Arts and Austrade regarding export strategies for Australian contemporary art.

**Djon Mundine OAM** is a member of the Bandjalung people of northern New South Wales and a distinguished pioneer Indigenous curator. A foremost figure in the Australian art world, he is an activist, writer, critic, and commentator. He is well known as the concept curator for the Aboriginal Memorial [1988] installation permanently on display in the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra. Mundine was awarded an OAM (Order of Australia, Medal for services to the visual arts) in 1993 and was Research Professor at Minpaku Museum of Ethnology in Osaka between 2005-2006. He was Senior Curator for the Gallery of Aboriginal Australia, National Museum of Australia, Canberra until 2000, after his position as Senior Curator of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Programs at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney. Djon's Bungaree's Farm projection exhibition won the Museum Australia's National Exhibition Award in 2015. At the Cementa Festival he worked with descendants of Jimmy and Peggy Lambert in painting a memorial mural on the external wall of Kandos Museum. Djon installed mixed media as part of the 'Another Country' exhibition at Auburn's Peacock Gallery and 'I Was Born by a River' with photographers Joe Mallard, Peter McKenzie, and painter Michael Philips, at the Rocks Discovery Museum. Mundine continues to relentlessly curate and write on Aboriginal art and is currently a PhD candidate at University of NSW.