



## Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize announces 2016 guest judges Wendy Whiteley, Barry Keldoulis & Rhonda Davis

*- Call for entries opens 1 April 2016 to emerging & professional sculptors -*

**Sydney, Australia:** The Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize, Australia's pre-eminent national award for small sculpture produced by Woollahra Council, has announced three guest judges for the 2016 exhibition and prize. The new judges for 2016 are CEO and Group Fairs Director of Art Fairs Australia **Barry Keldoulis**, Senior Curator at Macquarie University Art Gallery **Rhonda Davis** and Medal of the Order of Australia recipient and former wife of artist Brett Whiteley, **Wendy Whiteley**.

Entries have also been announced as open from 1 April until 1 July 2016, with artists required to present an original, freestanding sculpture up to 80cm in any dimension.

A free exhibition of finalist works in the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize will be presented from 15 October until 30 October 2016 at the historic Woollahra Council Chambers in Double Bay, Sydney.

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; and the Mayor's Prize of \$1,000.

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 well received by the Sydney arts community and I am delighted with the diversity and consistently high standard of entries we receive each year, which continues to delight the hundreds of exhibition visitors," 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.

Over 650 Prize entries from national and international artists are received annually with around 40 finalists' works presented in the exhibition. The main prize winner in 2015 was Robert Owen for his sculpture

*Symmetria* #37. Previous winners also include Jan King (2002), Mikala Dwyer (2003), Louis Pratt (2006), Adam Cullen (2008), Alexander Seton (2009), Archie Moore (2010), Thor Beowulf (2012) and Julia deVile (2013).

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](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 15 October until 30 October 2016 at the Woollahra Council Chambers.

#### **2016 BIOGRAPHIES FOR JUDGES:**

**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 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.