

15th annual Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize announces 2015 guest judges and call for entries



Sydney, Australia: The 15th annual Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize today announced three high-profile guest judges who will oversee Australia's pre-eminent national award for small sculpture for 2015. The judges for the 2015 Prize are **Dr Michael Brand**, Director of The Art Gallery of NSW, **Penelope Seidler**, CEO of Harry Seidler & Associates and Curatorial Advisor **Barbara Flynn**.

The Prize, presented annually by Woollahra Council, offers a total of \$19,000 in prize monies and attracts entries from professional and emerging artists from around the world. New Zealand-based artist Natalie Guy being awarded the main category in 2014 for the first time for her work *Form for modern living #2*, a five kilogram bronze cast of what was originally a reworked plywood school chair.

The call for entries opens on Wednesday 1 April with a deadline of 3 July 2015. Artists are invited to present images of their proposed or completed original and freestanding sculptures. The submitted art works must also be non-site specific, three-dimensional and constructed of durable materials up to 80cm in any dimension.

Total prize money for the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize increased in 2014 from \$15,000 to \$19,000, awarded across four categories: the main Acquisitive award (\$15,000); Special Commendation award (\$2,000); Viewers' Choice award (\$1,000); and Mayor's Award (\$1,000).

In 2014, Woollahra Council received a record number of nearly 600 entries from national and international artists. A total of 45 finalists' works were presented in the exhibition, with New Zealand-based artist Natalie Guy winning the main award. for her work *Form for modern living #2*, a five kilogram bronze cast of what was originally a reworked plywood school chair.

Previous winners of the Prize include Mikala Dwyer (2003), Louis Pratt (2006), Adam Cullen (2008), Alexander Seton (2009), Archie Moore (2010), Thor Beowulf (2012) and Julia deVille (2013).

A free public exhibition of finalist works selected for the 15th Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize will be presented from 10 October until 25 October 2015 at the Woollahra Council Chambers in Sydney's eastern suburbs. The Prize is the only national acquisitive prize showcasing the quality, skill and originality of smaller dimension sculptures.

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The sponsors for the 2015 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize Sponsors are: Mark Moran Vaucluse; John Symond AM; Sanchia Brahimi, Belle Property Group Double Bay; Wentworth Courier.

Ends

MEDIA CONTACT: To request interviews, imagery and information in relation to the Prize, please contact Anna Shapiro, anna@articulatepr.com.au or Kym Elphinstone, kym@articulatepr.com.au, 0421 106 139.

EXHIBITION DETAILS: A free exhibition of finalist sculptures will be presented at-Woollahra Council Chambers, 536 New South Head Road Double Bay NSW, from 10 October until 25 October 2015. The winners will be announced at on 9 October 2015 with further details to be provided closer to the time.

BACKGROUND ON THE PRIZE: The Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize is the leading 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. For further details of the Prize visit: <http://sculptureprize.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/>

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

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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.