

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 23 March 2017 - For immediate release

Entries open for one of the country's biggest art prizes Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017 & Awards

Victorian sculptors are invited to enter one of Australia's most valuable art prizes as entries open today for the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017 and Awards.

The Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017 and Awards recognises and rewards Victoria's abundant talent in sculpture through innovative and inspiring prizes and a free public exhibition of finalists work at Federation Square.

Valued at more than \$120,000, the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017 and Awards consists of four categories, including a new category valued at \$10,000 and a public choice award.

Melbourne Prize Trust Executive Director and Founder, Mr Simon Warrender, said the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017 and Awards provides significant opportunities for local sculptors.

"Victoria is renowned as Australia's arts capital and the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017 and Awards recognises and rewards excellence, creativity and talent across the state," Mr. Warrender said.

"The Prize focuses on the urban environment and the importance of sculpture, in all its forms, to inspire and inform our public open space to enrich public life. For the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture, artists can enter either a completed artwork or a proposal for an artwork, which broadens the scope for creative expression and draws the link between the idea and the object. Finalists in this category will receive a generous artist fee to help with the costs of exhibiting," he said.

Through the addition of the new category this year, the Melbourne UNESCO City of Literature Office and the Melbourne Prize Trust are working together to acknowledge Melbourne's designation as a UNESCO International City of Literature.

"The \$10,000 Public Artwork Design Concept Award is an exciting addition to this year's program and seeks a design concept for a public artwork that celebrates Melbourne's designation as a UNESCO City of Literature," added Mr Warrender.

The Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017 and Awards include the following categories:

- **\$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017** is supported by **The Vera Moore Foundation, The Tallis Foundation and the Melbourne Prize Trust**. All finalists will receive an artist fee of \$4,000, generously supported by **C H (Roger) Brookes**.
- **\$40,000 Rural & Regional Development Award 2017** is supported by **The Geoff and Helen Handbury Foundation** to provide opportunities to sculptors in rural and regional Victoria.
- **(NEW) \$10,000 Public Artwork Design Concept Award 2017 - *Crafting a City of Literature*** is supported by the Melbourne UNESCO City of Literature Office. The Award seeks a design concept for a public artwork to celebrate Melbourne's designation as a UNESCO City of Literature.
- **\$10,000 Professional Development Award 2017** plus \$2,500 Qantas credit and a professional practice residency at the Norma Redpath Studio in Carlton, supported by the **Melbourne Prize Trust, The University of Melbourne, the Victorian College of the Arts and Qantas**.
- **\$4,000 Civic Choice Award 2017** is supported by the **Melbourne Prize Trust**. This Award will be presented to a finalist with the highest number of online votes cast at www.melbourneprize.org, following the announcement of finalists, and during the November public exhibition at Event & Exhibition Partner **Federation Square** (see Key Dates). Voters will have a chance to win a night at the **Sofitel Melbourne On Collins - Melbourne's Hotel for the Arts**.

Entry forms are available at www.melbourneprize.org. Entries can be made by the individual artist or by nomination. **Entries close on 17 May 2017 at 5pm.**

The 2017 judges include six esteemed arts sector professionals: **Max Delany**, Artistic Director & CEO, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, ACCA; **Victoria Lynn**, Director, TarraWarra Museum of Art; **Professor Callum Morton**, Artist & Head of Fine Art, Monash University Art Design & Architecture, MADA; **Professor Marie Sierra**, Artist & Deputy Dean & Head of School UNSW Australia, Art & Design; **Simone Slee**, Artist & Head of Sculpture & Spatial Practice, School of Art, Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne; and **Pip Wallis**, Curator, Contemporary Art, National Gallery of Victoria.

The Melbourne Prize Trust is proud to have the Victorian Government, through **Creative Victoria** and the **City of Melbourne**, as Government Partners.

“The Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017 and Awards has been made possible by the ongoing support and generosity of our partners and patrons all of whom understand the importance of fostering our creative resources,” concluded Mr Warrender.

Key dates:

Entries open	23 March 2017
Entries close	17 May 2017 at 5pm
Announcement of finalists	14 June 2017
Public exhibition of finalists	13 to 27 November 2017
Announcement of recipients	15 November 2017
Announcement of Civic Choice Award 2017	1 December 2017

The Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017 and Awards are made possible through the generous support of **partners and patrons of the Melbourne Prize Trust**, who can be seen at www.melbourneprize.org. **Committee for Melbourne** and **Cornwell** are founding partners. **Cornwell**, has since inception, developed the award-winning identity and exhibition design for the annual Melbourne Prize and are joined this year by **Mr P Studios**.

The Melbourne Prize Trust appreciates the generous support of major patron **The Vera Moore Foundation** and all 2017 partners and patrons who, through their community investment, help to develop our creative resources and provide opportunities to benefit our abundant artistic talent through the annual Melbourne Prize.

Federation Square is the Exhibition and Events partner and ‘home’ of the Melbourne Prize. This long-term partnership makes it possible for the public, visiting the free public exhibition each November, to engage with abundant talent in literature, music and (urban) sculpture and provides artists, writers and musicians with public exposure, in one of the country’s most visited public spaces.

The Melbourne Prize Trust appreciates Federation Squares generous support, which enhances our creative resources and provides opportunities to promote our abundant artistic talent through the annual Melbourne Prize.

– Ends –

For more information or for interview opportunities call Nicolette Baxter at Royce on 8628 9320 or 0438 143 342 or visit www.melbourneprize.org.

Progress of the Prize can be followed via our social media platforms:

- <https://www.facebook.com/MelbournePrize>
- https://twitter.com/Melbourne_Prize

Notes to the editor:

Launched in 2004, the Melbourne Prize Trust was established to recognise and reward talent, excellence and inspire creative development. The Trust achieves this aim by running the annual Melbourne Prize, which is funded by a collaboration of partners and patrons. The Melbourne Prize Trust and annual Melbourne Prize was founded by Executive Director, Simon Warrender. Committee for Melbourne is a founding supporter.

Being one of the most valuable arts prize of its kind in Australia, the annual Melbourne Prize operates in a three-year cycle, including the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture, the Melbourne Prize for Literature and the Melbourne Prize for Music. The Melbourne Prize for Literature will be offered in 2018.

Since inception, the annual Melbourne Prize has made available more than \$1,000,000 in prizes and award, artist residencies, equipment grants and an annual public exhibition at Federation Square to Victorian writers, sculptors and musicians.

The origins of the Melbourne Prize Trust date back to *The Magic Pudding* sculpture commission, as part of a children's garden concept, at the Royal Botanic Garden Melbourne. Miniatures of this sculpture are available for purchase through the Melbourne Prize Trust; a Deductible Gift Recipient and Income Tax Exempt Charity.

Past recipients include:

2014

Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2014 – **Geoff Robinson** *15 locations/15 minutes/ 15days*, 2014
Professional Development Award 2014 – **Kay Abude** *Piecework (Federation Square)*
Rural & Regional Development Award 2014 – **Aleks Danko**
Civic Choice Award 2014 – **Kay Abude** *Piecework (Federation Square)*

2011

Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2011 - **Bianca Hester** *A world, fully accessible by no living being* 2011
Professional Development Award 2011 - **Lucas Maddock and Isaac Greener** *Apostle No.2* 2011
Civic Choice Award 2011 - **Lucas Maddock and Isaac Greener** *Apostle No.2* 2011




















2008

Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2008 - **Alexander Knox** *maxims of behaviour* 2008
Professional Development Award 2008 - **Tom Nicholson** *Monument for the flooding of Royal Park* 2008
VicUrban Award 2008 - **Louise Paramor** *Tritonic Jam Session* 2008
Civic Choice Award 2008 - **Elaine Miles** *Reflections* 2007

2005

Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2005 - **OSW: Terri Bird, Bianca Hester, Natasha Johns-Messenger and Scott Mitchell** *groundings* 2005
Professional Development Award 2005 - **Karen Abernethy** *echophene* 2004
Fabrication Award 2005 - **Simon Perry** *Public Address* 2005
Civic Choice Award 2005 - **Matthew de Moiser** *Parasite* 2005

Thank you to our 2017 partners and patrons

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Please see below for the annual Melbourne Prize alumni:



The Annual Melbourne Prize
2005 – 2016 Alumni

2016	Melbourne Prize for Music 2016 Kutcha Edwards	Distinguished Musicians Fellowship 2016 (new) Kutcha Edwards
	Outstanding Musicians Award 2016 Scott Tinkler	Development Award 2016 Matthias Schack-Arnott
	Beleura Award for Composition 2016 (new) Kate Neal	Civic Choice Awards 2016 Lior Attar
2015	Melbourne Prize for Literature 2015 Professor Chris Wallace-Crabbe AM	Writers Prize 2015 Kate Ryan
	Best Writing Award 2015 Andrea Goldsmith	Civic Choice Award 2015 Robyn Annear
2014	Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2014 Geoff Robinson	Civic Choice Award 2014 Kay Abude
	Professional Development Award 2014 Kay Abude	Rural & Regional Development Award 2014 Aleks Danko
2013	Melbourne Prize for Music 2013 Brett Dean	Development Award 2013 Kate Kelsey-Sugg
	Outstanding Musicians Award 2013 Stephen Magnusson	Civic Choice Award 2013 Mick Harvey
2012	Melbourne Prize for Literature 2012 Alex Miller	Civic Choice Award 2012 Tony Birch
	Best Writing Award 2012 Craig Sherborne	
2011	Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2011 Bianca Hester	Civic Choice Award 2011 Lucas Maddock & Isaac Greener
	Professional Development Award 2011 Lucas Maddock & Isaac Greener	
2010	Melbourne Prize for Music 2010 David Jones	Development Award 2010 Natalie Bartsch
	Outstanding Musicians Award 2010 Ben Northey	
2009	Melbourne Prize for Literature 2009 Gerald Murnane	Civic Choice Award 2009 Amra Pajalic
	Best Writing Award 2009 Nam Le	
2008	Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2008 Alexander Knox	VicUrban Award 2008 Louise Paramor
	Professional Development Award 2008 Tom Nicholson	Civic Choice Award 2008 Elaine Miles
2007	Melbourne Prize for Music 2007 Paul Grabowsky	Development Award 2007 Julian Langdon
	Outstanding Musicians Award 2007 Genevieve Lacey	
2006	Melbourne Prize for Literature 2006 Helen Garner	Civic Choice Award 2006 Henry von Doussa
	Best Writing Award 2006 Chistos Tsiolkas	
2005	Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2005 Open Spatial Workshop	Civic Choice Award 2005 Matthew de Moiser
	Professional Development Award 2005 Karen Abernethy	