

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 14 June 2017

Finalists announced in Melbourne Prize for Sculpture 2017

- **Six Victorian sculptors vie for \$60,000 prize**
- **Five finalists announced for the NEW \$10,000 Public Artwork Design Concept Award celebrating Melbourne's designation as a UNESCO City of Literature**
- **Four award categories offered with a total prize pool of \$120,000**
- **More than \$1 million awarded to sculptors, writers, musicians via the annual Melbourne Prize**

The finalists in one of Australia's most valuable sculpture prizes, the \$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017, have been announced today.

The **Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017** focuses on the urban environment and the importance of sculpture, in all its forms, to inform public spaces and enrich public life. It is unique in that it enables entrants to submit either a completed artwork, or a proposal for an artwork. **This year's finalists are:**

Sarah crowEST
Sibling Architecture

Laresa Kosloff
Daniel von Sturmer

Bridie Lunney
Susan Jacobs

The winner of the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017 will receive \$60,000 made possible by **The Vera Moore Foundation, The Tallis Foundation** and the **Melbourne Prize Trust**. All six finalists will also be awarded an artist fee of \$4,000, generously supported by **C H (Roger) Brookes**.

Judge's Statement: The judges were delighted with the significant response this year. There were a wide range of entries, making the judging an immensely challenging but rewarding process. The overall brief was very well understood, with entries testing and engaging with the urban environment. The selection of artists explore the continuing expansion of the term 'urban sculpture' into a variety of forms, disciplines and communities and are indicative of what is happening in contemporary sculptural practice at this time in the state of Victoria. From poetic and unexpected material investigations, to works that employ light, sound, architecture and performance to both articulate and alter the way we encounter public space, the range of practices chosen are compelling responses to our increasingly complex world. The judges would like to thank all applicants this year for their entries.

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, Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne; and

Pip Wallis - Curator, Contemporary Art, National Gallery of Victoria.

Five finalists have also been announced in the **(NEW) \$10,000 Public Artwork Design Concept Award 2017 - Crafting a City of Literature**. Supported by the **Melbourne UNESCO City of Literature Office**, this award seeks a design concept for a public artwork to celebrate Melbourne's designation as a UNESCO City of Literature. **This year's finalists are:**

Emma Anna
Matthew Harding

Catherine Clover
Louise Lavarack

Sue Buchanan & Eli Giannini

In addition to the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017 and Public Artwork Design Concept Award 2017, the following categories are also being offered as part of this year's program:

\$40,000 Rural & Regional Development Award 2017: Supported by **The Geoff and Helen Handbury Foundation**, this award provides opportunities to sculptors in rural and regional Victoria. The winner will be announced on November 15 at www.melbourneprize.org.

\$10,000 Professional Development Award 2017 plus \$2,500 Qantas credit and a professional practice residency at the Norma Redpath Studio in Carlton: This award is supported by the **Melbourne Prize Trust, The University of Melbourne, the Victorian College of the Arts** and **Qantas**. The winner will be announced on November 15 at www.melbourneprize.org.

\$4,000 Civic Choice Award 2017 is supported by the **Melbourne Prize Trust**. The finalist with the most public votes will be announced the winner. Voting opens today at www.melbourneprize.org. Voters will have a chance to win a night at the **Sofitel Melbourne On Collins - Melbourne's Hotel for the Arts**.

A free public exhibition of finalists will be held at **Federation Square** from November 13 to 27. Voting for the Civic Choice Award 2017 closes at the end of the exhibition on November 27 and the winner will be announced on December 1.

Celebrating 13 years of supporting the arts in Victoria, Melbourne Prize Trust Executive Director, Mr Simon Warrender, said he is delighted with the calibre of entries received and thanked all entrants this year.

“It is testimony to the abundant talent we have in sculpture in Victoria that we have had such strong overall entries, from which a diverse list of finalists has been selected. The Prize this year has been made possible by the support and generosity of our partners and patrons, all of whom recognise the importance of fostering our creative resources,” said Mr Warrender.

Key dates:

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 found at www.melbourneprize.org.

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

Committee for Melbourne and **Cornwell** are founding partners. **Cornwell** has since its inception, developed the award-winning identity and exhibition design for the annual Melbourne Prize and is 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 Square’s** 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 please contact: Nicolette Baxter at Royce on (03) 8628 9320 or 0438 143 342. 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.

For details on the Board of Directors and Management Committee of the Melbourne Prize Trust, please visit www.melbourneprize.org.

Past recipients include:

2014

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

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
 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

Government Partners	Patrons	Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017 Partners	Rural & Regional Development Award 2017 Partner	Public Artwork Design Concept Award 2017 – <i>Crafting a City of Literature</i>
			The Geoff and Helen Handbury Foundation	
	vera moore FOUNDATION	vera moore FOUNDATION	Professional Development Award 2017 Partners	Civic Choice Award 2017 Partner
Founding Partners	Diana Gibson AO			
	C H (Roger) Brookes	BELEURA HOUSE & GARDEN MORNINGTON		Broadcast Partner
	Corporate Partners	MELBOURNE PRIZE TRUST.	MELBOURNE PRIZE TRUST.	
		Creative Partners	Media Communications	Print Partners
Building a better working world				
MinterEllison	Professional Services	Exhibition Signage & AV	Exhibition Consultant	
Exhibition & Event Partner			Coleby Consulting	Banners
	Engineering Consultant		Wine Partner	Trophies
FED SQUARE		IT Services		
Design by Cornwell and Mr P Studios	The Mighty Wonton	The Mighty Wonton		
Committee for Melbourne a founding supporter	Names24	Names24		