

For Immediate Release

Monday, 15 May 2023

City's major sculpture prize opens entries

- Entries open today for the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2023
- Main prize valued at \$60,000
- Criteria for 2023 Prize enables funds to be used for professional development
- Open to entries from Victorian residents only

Today, entries open for the \$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2023, one of Australia's most valuable and prestigious art prizes.

The criteria for this year's Prize allows for the funds to be used for professional development of the winner's sculpture practice. Artists at all career stages practising in expanded fields of sculpture, including public installation, new media, performance, sound-based and socially engaged practice are welcome to apply.

The annual Melbourne Prize, now in its 19th year, continues its objective to provide opportunities to Victorian writers, musicians and for 2023, sculptors, demonstrating the importance of recognising and rewarding creative talent in the State.

Melbourne Prize Trust Executive Director and Founder, Mr Simon Warrender said, "with the ongoing support of our partners and patrons, we are delighted to offer the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture this year."

"Many of our partners have been with the Prize since its inception in 2005 and recognise the importance, especially in these times, of providing opportunities to assist our creative sector," said Mr Warrender.

The annual Melbourne Prize current cycle includes this year's Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture, which will be followed by the Melbourne Prize for Literature (2024) and the Melbourne Prize for Music (2025).

Supported by major patron, **The Vera Moore Foundation**, the **\$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2023** will be awarded to a Victorian sculptor to provide the winner with direct professional development opportunities. Entrants must provide information on how the Prize funds will be used on clearly defined initiative/s or project/s that will develop the entrant's practice, building on their previous professional work.

An augmented reality exhibition will be available at **Fed Square** from November 1st to 15th, which, through digital technology, will showcase each of the four finalists and their practice. During the digital exhibition, the public will be able to cast a vote for a finalist to win the **\$2,000 Civic Choice Award 2023**.

Supported by **Fed Square**, the sum of \$1,000 plus a \$1,000 Qantas voucher will be awarded to the non-winning finalists.

The 2023 judges include three esteemed arts sector professionals: **Emily Floyd** artist, **Kate ten Buuren** artist and **Katharina Prugger** Curator of Contemporary Art at the National Gallery of Victoria.

The **Entry Form** and **Guidelines** are available at www.melbourneprize.org. Entries can be made by the individual artist/s or by nomination.

Key dates:

Entries open May 15

Entries close July 3 at 5pm sharp

Finalists announced September 5 at www.melbourneprize.org / Civic Choice Award 2023 public voting opens

Winners announced November 15 at www.melbourneprize.org

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which the Melbourne Prize Trust operates, the People of the Kulin Nation, and pay our respects to the elders, past, present and future.

Our brand identity this year is the work of our Foundation Creative Partner www.playgroundstudio.com.au Please see the full 2023 Partner list below.

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The Vera Moore Foundation is acknowledged and thanked for their most generous support as Major Patron and partner of the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2023.

Thank you to patrons **Diana Gibson AO**, **The Yulgilbar Foundation** and **The Scanlon Foundation**.

Thank you to Corporate Partners [Sofitel Melbourne On Collins](#), *the Hotel for the Arts* and [Grant Thornton](#) and **Jamison Alliot** for professional services.

The visual identity and design for this year's Prize is the creation of leading Melbourne design studio and Foundation Partner, [Playground](#). Thank you to CEO Sally Dobell, Creative Director Adit Wardhana, Kim Hankin and designer, Ezekiel Crawford.

The Melbourne Prize Trust is proud to have the **Victorian Government**, through [Creative Victoria](#) and the [City of Melbourne Awards - Arts Excellence Program](#), as Government Partners.

[Fed Square](#) is the Finalist Fee and Foundation Events Partner and 'home' of the annual Melbourne Prize. Their generous support from inception is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to [Committee for Melbourne](#) for providing the office for the [Melbourne Prize Trust](#).

The Melbourne Prize Trust is proud to have [Kutch Edwards](#) as its Cultural Advisor.

Thank you to [The Mighty Wonton](#) for our IT support and website development and [Royce](#) for media services. Thank you to all our operations partners. **Please refer to all our 2023 partners and patrons below.**

Notes to the editor:

The [Melbourne Prize Trust](#) was established in 2004 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 of private and public sector partnerships and patrons. The Melbourne Prize Trust and annual Melbourne Prize were founded by Executive Director, Simon Warrender. [Committee for Melbourne](#) is a founding partner.

In its 19th year and being one of the most valuable arts prizes of its kind in Australia, the annual Melbourne Prize operates in a three-year cycle, including the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture (2023), the Melbourne Prize for Literature (2024) and the Melbourne Prize for Music (2025).

Since inception, the annual Melbourne Prize has made available more than \$2 million in prizes, residencies, equipment grants and an annual public exhibition at Fed Square to Victorian writers, sculptors and musicians.

The origins of the Melbourne Prize Trust date back to *The Magic Pudding* sculpture commission and children's garden concept at the [Royal Botanic Garden Melbourne](#) – an initiative of Simon Warrender implemented in 1998 through Committee for Melbourne's Future Focus Group. Miniatures of this sculpture are available for purchase through the Melbourne Prize Trust; a Deductible Gift Recipient and Income Tax Exempt Charity.

All announcements and further information will be available at www.melbourneprize.org

Past recipients:

2020

Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2020 - six finalists shared the Prize - **Beth Arnold, Mikala Dwyer, Emily Floyd, Nicholas Mangan, Kathy Temin and Field Theory.**

Rural & Regional Development Award 2020 - **Laura Woodward**

Professional Development Award 2020 - **Isadora Vaughan**

Civic Choice Award 2020 - **Field Theory**

2017

Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017 - **Daniel von Sturmer** - *Electric Light (facts/figures/federation square)*, 2017

Public Artwork Design Concept Award 2017 - **Emma Anna** - *The Elocwean Rainbow*, 2017

Professional Development Award 2017 - **Bridie Lunney** - *Fold*, 2017

Rural & Regional Development Award 2017 - **Fayen d'Evie**

Civic Choice Award 2017 - **Sarah crowEST**

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2014

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

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 2023 Partners and Patrons for their generous support.

Design by **PLAYGROUND**

Major Patron	Government Partners	Event Partner and Finalist/Judges Fees	Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2023 Partner	Patrons	
	 			Diana Gibson AO 	
Founding Partners	Creative Partner	Corporate Partner	Professional Services		
 MinterEllison			 Jamison Alliott <small>CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS BUSINESS ADVISORS</small>		
Website Design and Management	Signage	Media Communications	Print Partners	Banners	Trophies
 The Mighty Wonton			 		