

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, 5 September 2023

Finalists announced in major sculpture prize

- Four finalists have been announced today in the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2023
- Finalists are in the running for the \$60,000 prize - the winner will be announced 15 November 2023
- Public voting has opened for the Civic Choice Award 2023
- The artistic calibre of the four finalists reflects the abundant and diverse talent in the state.

Today, four finalists have been announced in one of Australia's most valuable sculpture prizes – the \$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2023. The finalists are:

[Maree Clarke](#)

[Kent Morris](#)

[Vipoo Srivilasa](#)

[Joy Zhou](#)

JUDGE'S STATEMENT: *We were impressed by the remarkably high standard of entries that came through from artists working across sculptural practices, and wish to congratulate all entrants and finalists.*

The Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture boasts an impressive history showcasing experimental excellence in the field of sculpture. Each iteration of the Prize has redefined the possibilities for public art and we look forward to sharing the extraordinary vision of the four 2023 finalists.

The finalists demonstrate a diversity of practices across sculptural forms, including working with new media, sound, installation, natural materials and more. We were excited by their work in communities, collaborating with audiences and presenting work in the public realm. Their works each have the power to inspire, shift perspectives and engage people in new conversations.

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

Using digital technology, an augmented reality presentation showcasing each of the four finalists will be available at **Fed Square** from November 1st to 15th - a digital catalogue will also be available.

Supported by **Fed Square**, the sum of \$1,000 plus a \$1,000 Qantas voucher will be awarded to the finalists who do not take out the major prize.

Public voting opens today at www.melbourneprize.org for a finalist to win the **\$2,000 Civic Choice Award 2023**.

The 2023 judges include three esteemed arts sector professionals: **Emily Floyd** artist, **Kate Ten Buuren** Senior Curator, First Nations, Melbourne Arts Precinct and **Katharina Prugger** Curator of Contemporary Art at the National Gallery of Victoria.

Now in its 19th year, the annual Melbourne Prize recognises and rewards excellence and talent among Victorian writers, musicians and for 2023, sculptors.

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.

Melbourne Prize Trust Executive Director and Founder, Mr Simon Warrender said, "we were overwhelmed with the response to this year's Prize, which will enable a local artist to develop their practice. Without the continued support of our many partners and patrons, we could not have offered this year's Prize – thank you, one and all," 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).

Key dates:

Finalists announced September 5 at www.melbourneprize.org / Civic Choice Award 2023 public voting opens
Winners announced November 15 at www.melbourneprize.org

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.

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, Senior Account Director Libby Broadback, Studio & Operations Manager Kim Hankin and designer, Stanley Darmawan.

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. The 2023 presentation trophy is hand-made by [Fundere Foundry Melbourne](#).

Thank you to [Committee for Melbourne](#) for providing the office for the [Melbourne Prize Trust](#), to our new catering partner [360Q](#) and to [Evan Evans](#) for our flags and banners.

The Melbourne Prize Trust is proud to have [Kutcha 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.

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 and presentation at Fed Square to showcase 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. The limited edition miniatures of this sculpture have now sold out.

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**

2014

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

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

Media Release



Thank you to the 2023 partners and patrons for their generous support.

Design by **PLAYGROUND**

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Event Partner and Finalist/Judges Fees



Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2023 Partner



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Banners



Trophies

