

## MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 2 September 2020

# Finalists announced in \$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Sculpture 2020

- Six Victorian sculptors vie for top arts prize
- Four award categories offered with a total prize pool of \$120,000
- Partner support enabled Prize & Awards to be offered in the COVID-19 environment
- Public voting opens today for a finalist to win the \$3,000 Civic Choice Award 2020
- Winner to be announced on 11 November via live broadcast from Fed Square's Deakin Edge

Six Victorian sculptors have been selected as finalists in the sought-after \$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2020 - one of the country's most valuable arts prizes.

Generous public and private sector support has enabled the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2020 & Awards to be offered this year in a challenging COVID-19 environment for the arts.

The \$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2020 will recognise and reward a Victorian sculptor for their existing body of work, their contribution to the practice of sculpture over their career, in particular in an urban context, and their current work in progress and planned work. The six finalists are:

**Beth Arnold Mikala Dwyer Emily Floyd Nicholas Mangan Kathy Temin Field Theory**

**For information on each finalist, please visit [www.melbourneprize.org](http://www.melbourneprize.org)**

**Judge's Statement:** The judges were thrilled with the level of engagement this year, especially given the challenging circumstances artists find themselves in. We were appreciative of artists' adaptability to the updated entry process. The breadth of practices represented and the nuanced approaches to urban sculpture seen across the field was striking and inspiring. Practitioners ranged from early and mid-career to some of the state's most accomplished artists working in the public realm. The entries reflected artists' active engagement with public space in its various senses - architectural, ecological, social and digital. Poetic, performative, collaborative and speculative strategies were represented, demonstrating the wide array of forms urban sculpture may take today and the various ways it contributes to public enjoyment, identity, reflection and debate. The judges would like to thank all applicants this year for their entries, especially during this time when artists and the arts sector are facing particular challenges. The criticality of art and culture in public space is reaffirmed by the entrants to this year's prize.

The 2020 judges include four esteemed arts sector professionals: **Max Delany** Artistic Director & CEO Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA); **Professor Marie Sierra** Artist & Deputy Dean, UNSW Sydney, Faculty of Art & Design; **Dr Simone Slee** Artist & Acting Head, VCA Art, Victorian College of the Arts, The University of Melbourne; and **Pip Wallis** Curator, Contemporary Art, National Gallery of Victoria.

**Public voting** opens today for one of the finalists to win the \$3,000 Civic Choice Award 2020 - visit [www.melbourneprize.org](http://www.melbourneprize.org) to vote.

**The prize and award pool this year is valued at more than \$120,000**, with four categories offered including a valuable new commission.

- \$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2020 - supported by **The Vera Moore Foundation**. The Prize will recognise and reward a Victorian sculptor for their existing body of work, their contribution to the practice of sculpture and current work in progress and planned work.
- \$40,000 Rural & Regional Development Award 2020 - supported by **The Geoff and Helen Handbury Foundation**. The Award will provide opportunities to sculptors in rural and regional Victoria.
- \$10,000 Professional Development Award 2020, plus \$2,000 **Qantas** voucher, supported by **Fed Square** and the **Melbourne Prize Trust**. The Award will be given to a Victorian sculptor to develop their practice.
- (NEW) \$10,000 GURNER™ COMMISSION - supported by **GURNER™** will provide Victorian artists with an opportunity to develop and submit a concept artwork for one of Melbourne's most prestigious residential apartment developments.
- \$3,000 Civic Choice Award 2020 - supported by the **Melbourne Prize Trust**. The Award will be presented to a finalist in the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2020 with the highest number of online votes cast at [www.melbourneprize.org](http://www.melbourneprize.org)

Due to the constraints of the COVID-19 environment, the announcement of the winners of the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2020 & Awards will be made by live broadcast from Deakin Edge, Fed Square at 6pm on 11 November 2020. Fed Square is the Event Partner of the annual Melbourne Prize.

Melbourne Prize Executive Director & Founder, Simon Warrender, said "Congratulations to the six finalists who demonstrate the abundant sculpture talent we have in Victoria and thank you to all entrants and to our judges."

"The Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2020 & Awards will look different this year given the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 environment. We could not have proceeded without the continuing support of our many partners and patrons," said Mr Warrender.

"With the technical innovation of our partner, Fed Square, we will bring a fresh and exciting broadcast of the awards live from Deakin Edge in November. Keep an eye on our website and follow us on social media for information on our finalists and the four category winners", said Mr Warrender.

CEO of Fed Square, Xavier Csar, said, "Fed Square is incredibly proud of its association with the Melbourne Prize since its inception and we are pleased to be supporting the awards again this year as the arts industry faces unprecedented challenges. As Melbourne's civic and cultural heart, Fed Square is looking forward to provide a platform to highlight the incredible talent of Victorian artists and an opportunity for the public to engage with the Melbourne Prize."

**Fed Square** is the Exhibition and Events partner and 'home' of the Melbourne Prize. The Melbourne Prize Trust appreciates Fed Square's generous support from inception of the annual Melbourne Prize, which develops and promotes the abundant creative talent of Victorian sculptors, writers and musicians.

Celebrating 16 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.

**Key dates:**

**Announcement of finalists**

2 September 2020

**Announcement of winner via live broadcast at [www.melbourneprize.org](http://www.melbourneprize.org)**

11 November 2020 at 6pm

**Announcement of Civic Choice Award 2020**

27 November 2020

The Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2020 and Awards are made possible through the generous support of the many partners and patrons, whose support during the COVID-19 outbreak is greatly appreciated. Please see the partners and patrons below.

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

The visual identity and design for this year's Prize are the creation of leading Melbourne design studio **PLAYGROUND**.

**The Vera Moore Foundation** is acknowledged and thanked for their support as major patron of the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2020 and Awards, along with the other category supporters - **The Geoff and Helen Handbury Foundation**, **Fed Square** and **GURNER™**.

– Ends –

**For more information or for interview opportunities call Adi Stevens at Royce on 0407 411 088, or visit [www.melbourneprize.org](http://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](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.

Now in its 16th year and 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 (2020), the Melbourne Prize for Literature (2021) and the Melbourne Prize for Music (2022).

Since inception, the annual Melbourne Prize has made available more than \$1.8 million in prizes and awards, 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:**

**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

Thank you to our 2020 partners and patrons

Government Partners	Patrons	Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2020 Partner	Rural & Regional Development Award 2020 Partner	The GURNER™ Commission
<p><b>CREATIVE VICTORIA</b></p> <p><b>CITY OF MELBOURNE</b></p> <p>Founding Partners</p>	<p> vera moore FOUNDATION</p> <p>Diana Gibson AO</p> <p> BELEURA HOUSE &amp; GARDEN MORNINGTON</p> <p> YULGILBAR The Yulgilbar Foundation</p>	<p> vera moore FOUNDATION</p> <p>Exhibition &amp; Event Partner</p> <p> FED SQUARE</p>	<p>The Geoff and Helen Handbury Foundation</p> <p>Professional Development Award 2020 Partners</p> <p> FED SQUARE</p> <p>MELBOURNE PRIZE TRUST™</p>	<p><b>GURNER™</b></p> <p>Civic Choice Award 2020 Partner</p> <p>MELBOURNE PRIZE TRUST™</p> <p>Print Partners</p> <p> ROTHFIELD Print &amp; Image Management</p>
<p> COMMITTEE FOR MELBOURNE</p> <p> EY Building a better working world</p> <p>MinterEllison</p>	<p>Corporate Partners</p> <p> SOFITEL HOTELS &amp; RESORTS</p> <p> QANTAS Spirit of Australia</p> <p>Professional Services</p> <p> Grant Thornton</p>	<p>Creative Partners</p> <p> PLAYGROUND</p> <p> PANCHO</p> <p>Signage &amp; AV</p> <p> premiergraphics architectural &amp; environmental signage</p> <p> CREATIVE VISION AUDIO</p>	<p>Media Communications</p> <p> ROYCE COMMUNICATIONS</p> <p>Exhibition Consultant</p> <p><i>Coleby Consulting</i></p>	<p>Spicers </p> <p> ELLIKON FINE PRINTERS</p> <p>IT Services</p> <p>The Mighty Wonton</p> <p>Names24</p> <p>Banners</p> <p> Evan Evans</p> <p>Trophies</p> <p> Fundere Foundry</p>



The annual Melbourne Prize  
2005 – 2019 Alumni

2019	<p><b>Melbourne Prize for Music 2019</b> Deborah Cheetham AO</p> <p><b>Distinguished Musicians Fellowship 2019</b> Erkki Veltheim</p> <p><b>Development Award 2019</b> Mojo Juku</p>	<p><b>Beleura Emerging Composers Award 2019</b> Andrea Keller</p> <p><b>Civic Choice Award 2019</b> Kaiti Waup</p>
2018	<p><b>Melbourne Prize for Literature 2018</b> Alison Lester</p> <p><b>Best Writing Award 2018</b> Maria Tumarkin</p>	<p><b>Writers Prize 2018</b> Jamie Marina</p> <p><b>Civic Choice Award 2018</b> TBA</p>
2017	<p><b>Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017</b> Daniel von Sturmer</p> <p><b>Rural &amp; Regional Development Award 2017</b> Fayen d'Evie</p> <p><b>Public Artwork Design Concept Award 2017 – <i>Crafting a city of literature</i></b> Emma Anna</p>	<p><b>Professional Development Award 2017</b> Bridie Lunney</p> <p><b>Civic Choice Award 2017</b> Sarah crowEST</p>
2016	<p><b>Melbourne Prize for Music 2016</b> Kutcha Edwards</p> <p><b>Outstanding Musicians Award 2016</b> Scott Tiniker</p> <p><b>Beleura Award for Composition 2016 (new)</b> Kate Neal</p>	<p><b>Distinguished Musicians Fellowship 2016 (new)</b> Kutcha Edwards</p> <p><b>Development Award 2016</b> Matthias Schack-Arnott</p> <p><b>Civic Choice Awards 2016</b> Lior Attar</p>
2015	<p><b>Melbourne Prize for Literature 2015</b> Professor Chris Wallace-Crabbe AM</p> <p><b>Best Writing Award 2015</b> Andrea Goldsmith</p>	<p><b>Writers Prize 2015</b> Kate Ryan</p> <p><b>Civic Choice Award 2015</b> Robyn Annear</p>
2014	<p><b>Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2014</b> Geoff Robinson</p> <p><b>Professional Development Award 2014</b> Kay Abude</p>	<p><b>Civic Choice Award 2014</b> Kay Abude</p> <p><b>Rural &amp; Regional Development Award 2014</b> Aleks Danko</p>
2013	<p><b>Melbourne Prize for Music 2013</b> Brett Dean</p> <p><b>Outstanding Musicians Award 2013</b> Stephen Magnusson</p>	<p><b>Development Award 2013</b> Kate Kelsey-Sugg</p> <p><b>Civic Choice Award 2013</b> Mick Harvey</p>
2012	<p><b>Melbourne Prize for Literature 2012</b> Alex Miller</p> <p><b>Best Writing Award 2012</b> Craig Sherborne</p>	<p><b>Civic Choice Award 2012</b> Tony Birch</p>
2011	<p><b>Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2011</b> Bianca Hester</p> <p><b>Professional Development Award 2011</b> Lucas Maddock &amp; Isaac Greener</p>	<p><b>Civic Choice Award 2011</b> Lucas Maddock &amp; Isaac Greener</p>
2010	<p><b>Melbourne Prize for Music 2010</b> David Jones</p> <p><b>Outstanding Musicians Award 2010</b> Ben Northey</p>	<p><b>Development Award 2010</b> Natalie Bartsch</p>
2009	<p><b>Melbourne Prize for Literature 2009</b> Gerardt Mumane</p> <p><b>Best Writing Award 2009</b> Nam Le</p>	<p><b>Civic Choice Award 2009</b> Amira Pajalic</p>
2008	<p><b>Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2008</b> Alexander Knox</p> <p><b>Professional Development Award 2008</b> Tom Nicholson</p>	<p><b>VicUrban Award 2008</b> Louise Paramor</p> <p><b>Civic Choice Award 2008</b> Elaine Miles</p>
2007	<p><b>Melbourne Prize for Music 2007</b> Paul Grabowsky</p> <p><b>Outstanding Musicians Award 2007</b> Genevieve Lacey</p>	<p><b>Development Award 2007</b> Julian Langdon</p>
2006	<p><b>Melbourne Prize for Literature 2006</b> Helen Garner</p> <p><b>Best Writing Award 2006</b> Chistos Tsiolkas</p>	<p><b>Civic Choice Award 2006</b> Henry von Doussa</p>
2005	<p><b>Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2005</b> Open Spatial Workshop</p> <p><b>Professional Development Award 2005</b> Karen Abernethy</p>	<p><b>Civic Choice Award 2005</b> Matthew de Moiser</p>