

MEDIA RELEASE

6.45pm Wednesday 11 November 2020

Finalists come together to share \$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Sculpture 2020

- Six finalists in the \$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2020 share the prestigious award - one of the country's most valuable arts prizes.
- The move speaks of the changing nature of public art and a time of challenge for the arts sector.
- Prize and Awards over \$100,000 available to Victorian sculptors through the support of partners and patrons.
- The annual Melbourne Prize has awarded more than \$1.8 million to Victorian writers, sculptors and musicians.
- Kutcha Edwards appointed as Cultural Advisor to the annual Melbourne Prize.

Announced tonight at Fed Square, in an unprecedented move, the six finalists in this year's coveted **Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture** came together in a collegiate spirit to collaborate and share the \$60,000 prize pool. The Prize is generously supported by **The Vera Moore Foundation**.

The magnanimous gesture of **Beth Arnold, Mikala Dwyer, Emily Floyd, Nicholas Mangan, Kathy Temin** and **Field Theory** comes at a time of change in what public art represents and in response to challenges faced by the arts sector following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Generous public and private sector support from this year's partners and patrons has enabled the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2020 & Awards to proceed in the current and challenging COVID-19 environment.

A JOINT STATEMENT ABOUT THE 2020 MELBOURNE PRIZE FOR URBAN SCULPTURE

The annual Melbourne Prize, and this year's panellists and artists, collectively acknowledge and pay respects to the Boonwurrung/Bunurong and Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, their Elders, past, present and emerging, on whose unceded lands we are honoured to advocate for the role of art within public life.

The Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture continues to be led by artists. This year's finalists have addressed the critical role public art plays in the ethical domain that underpins evolving notions of place and justice. Since awarding the inaugural Prize in 2005 to OSW's propositional artwork, *groundings*, the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture continues its record as a progressive institution contributing to the redefinition of public sculpture in the civic domain. The 2020 Melbourne Prize acknowledges that the ground on which we make and produce art has been continuously nurtured by over two thousand generations of First Nations people, integrating life and art, creating song and performing dance.

Reflecting a year like no other, the judging panel has welcomed the initiative of the 2020 finalists of the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture who have acknowledged the absence of First Nations voices and culturally diverse representation in the 2020 Prize. In seeking to address this situation, and the critical role of equity, diversity and inclusion of the annual Melbourne Prize, they note: "As artists we are accountable to our ethical positions, to the expectations of our communities and furthering the critical contexts that have nurtured our practices and disciplines over many years."

The annual Melbourne Prize recognises the absence of self-identified First Nations applicants to the 2020 Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture. In response, and through discussion with the shortlisted artists, panellists, and community members, the Melbourne Prize has committed to a series of proactive measures to ensure greater diversity, access and inclusion across the Prize, its awards juries and the recruitment of applications in future. These initiatives include:

- The appointment of Kutcha Edwards, proud MuttiMutti singer and songwriter, in the role of Cultural Advisor to advise the Melbourne Prize in relation to First Nations inclusion and representation
- With Kutcha Edwards, establishment of a Melbourne Prize Advisory Group to guide the Prize going forward in relation to equity, diversity and inclusion for all future planning and operations
- Empowering this Advisory Group to establish an action plan that is implemented by the Melbourne Prize to ensure a greater diversity of applicants to future prizes
- The implementation of greater diversity on the awards judging panels through the appointment of First Nations and other culturally and linguistically diverse members.

The annual Melbourne Prize and panellists endorse the artists' proposal in 2020 – as a gesture of solidarity in an economically and culturally challenging year – to share the \$60,000 prize across all six finalists and their initiative to collectively pay an equal share of the total prize pool to a First Nation community organisation.

We recognise the artists' initiative as a productive critical engagement with the ethical conditions of working in the public realm on unceded Aboriginal lands and the importance of action towards justice and equity through the arts.

Artist finalists: Beth Arnold, Mikala Dwyer, Emily Floyd, Nicholas Mangan, Kathy Temin and Field Theory (Sarah Rodigari, Anna Schoo, Jason Maling, Martyn Coutts, Lara Thoms and Jackson Castiglione).
Isadora Vaughan - winner Professional Development Award 2020 and Laura Woodward - winner Rural & Regional Development Award 2020.

Panellists: Max Delany, Professor Marie Sierra, Dr. Simone Slee and Pip Wallis.
Melbourne Prize Trust: Simon Warrender, Founder & Executive Director.

The **\$40,000 Rural & Regional Development Award 2020** has been awarded to **Laura Woodward** www.laurawoodward.com.au. The Award is supported by **The Geoff and Helen Handbury Foundation**.

Isadora Vaughan www.isadoravaughan.com is the winner of the **Professional Development Award 2020** valued at \$10,000 plus a \$2,000 Qantas voucher. The Award is sponsored by **Fed Square** and the **Melbourne Prize Trust**.

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Visit www.melbourneprize.org for information on the recipients of the the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2020 & Awards, including a statement from the six finalists.

The **GURNER™ COMMISSION** was not awarded this year.

In the current COVID-19 environment, the announcement of the recipients of the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2020 & Awards has been delivered differently this year. Winners were announced live online, supported by Event Partner Fed Square and Creative Vission and Audio, in conjunction with Creative Partner PLAYGROUND and Studio Pancho, Encore Creative and The Mighty Wonton. Visit www.melbourneprize.org to see a recording of tonight's online awards announcement.

Minister for Creative Industries Danny Pearson said, "I commend the artists and Melbourne Prize panellists and team on this unprecedented decision in an unprecedented year. This is a strong and positive example of how artists support each other and drive change. For 16 years the annual Melbourne Prize has nurtured the careers of outstanding Victorian sculptors, musicians and writers – in 2020 this support and recognition is more important than ever. We are proud to again partner with the Melbourne Prize Trust to celebrate and back our local artists."

Justin Hanney, CEO, City of Melbourne said, "the City of Melbourne is proud to support the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2020 & Awards, which recognise our city's and state's outstanding artistic talent. More than ever this year, the artists, musicians and performers who have been central to Melbourne's vitality deserve our continued support. I congratulate the finalists and recipients and wish all involved every success."

Federation Square CEO Xavier Csar said, "Fed Square is proud of its long-standing association with the annual Melbourne Prize, having provided a platform to highlight and celebrate the talents of Victorian artists and to share this with the community since the awards first began in 2005. In a year in which the arts industry has faced unprecedented challenges, initiatives such as this are more important than ever and we have been delighted to continue our support for the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2020 & Awards."

The 2020 judges include four esteemed arts sector professionals: **Max Delany** Artistic Director & CEO, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA); **Professor Marie Sierra**, Artist & Adjunct Professor, Art & Design, UNSW Sydney; **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 for one of the finalists to win the **\$3,000 Civic Choice Award 2020** has closed and the winner will be announced a www.melbourneprize.org on November 13.

Melbourne Prize Executive Director and Founder, Simon Warrender said, "I would like to congratulate all the recipients this year and thank all artists who entered – it has been a record year."

"With the impact of COVID-19 it has been a year of challenge, change and moving forward. I am pleased with the outcome and that we have been able to continue the program to support our arts community during this time."

Mr Warrender said, "When the pandemic broke it looked like we may not be able to offer the 2020 Melbourne Prize but the overwhelming support of our partners and patrons made it possible."

In other announcements, the Melbourne Prize Trust has appointed **Kutch Edwards as Cultural Advisor** to advise the organisation on First Nation matters, diversity and inclusion.

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 winner via live broadcast	(www.melbourneprize.org)	11 November 2020 at 6pm
Announcement of Civic Choice Award 2020	(www.melbourneprize.org)	13 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, particularly 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**, in conjunction with **Studio Pancho, Encore Creative and The Mighty Wonton**.

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**.

– Ends –

For more information or for interview opportunities call **Adi Stevens** at **Royce** on **0407 411 088**, 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

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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

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Thank you to our 2020 partners and patrons

Government Partners	Major Patron	Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2020 Partner	Rural & Regional Development Award 2020 Partner	Professional Development Award 2020 Partners	
 			<p>The Geoff and Helen Handbury Foundation</p>		
Founding Partners	Patrons	Event Partner	Corporate Partners	Civic Choice Award 2020 Partner	
  <p>MinterEllison</p>	<p>Diana Gibson AO</p> 				
		Creative Partners	Media Communications	Print Partners	
		  		  	
	Professional Services	Signage & AV	IT Services	Banners	Trophies
		 			

Design by Playground

Committee for Melbourne a founding supporter

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 The annual Melbourne Prize
2005 – 2019 Alumni

2019	Melbourne Prize for Music 2019 Deborah Cheetham AC Distinguished Musicians Fellowship 2019 Enko Velthuis Development Award 2019 Mijn Juij	Belera Emerging Composers Award 2019 Andras Keller Civic Choice Award 2019 Karl Weip
2018	Melbourne Prize for Literature 2018 Alison Lester Best Writing Award 2018 Markus Zusak	Writers Prize 2018 Janie Martin Civic Choice Award 2018 TBA
2017	Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017 Daniel von Stumm Rural & Regional Development Award 2017 Fayen d'Este Public Artwork Design Concept Award 2017 – Crafting a city of literature Emma Anns	Professional Development Award 2017 Doris Lohmeijer Civic Choice Award 2017 Sarah CrowEST
2016	Melbourne Prize for Music 2016 Kurtis Edwards Outstanding Musicians Award 2016 Scott Trinder Belera Award for Composition 2016 (new) Katie Neal	Distinguished Musicians Fellowship 2016 (new) Kurtis Edwards Development Award 2016 Mathias Schack-Arnott Civic Choice Awards 2016 Lior Altar
2015	Melbourne Prize for Literature 2015 Professor Chris Wallace-Crabbe AM Best Writing Award 2015 Andrew Goldsmith	Writers Prize 2015 Kate Ryan Civic Choice Award 2015 Robyn Annear
2014	Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2014 Geoff Robinson Professional Development Award 2014 Kay Abu-Dehbeh	Civic Choice Award 2014 Kay Abu-Dehbeh Rural & Regional Development Award 2014 Alexa Danko
2013	Melbourne Prize for Music 2013 Brett Dean Outstanding Musicians Award 2013 Stephen Magnusson	Development Award 2013 Kate Kealey-Sugg Civic Choice Award 2013 Mick Harvey
2012	Melbourne Prize for Literature 2012 Alex Miller Best Writing Award 2012 Craig Sheehy	Civic Choice Award 2012 Tony Birch
2011	Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2011 Danka Haderl Professional Development Award 2011 Lucas Mackbook & Isaac Greener	Civic Choice Award 2011 Lucas Mackbook & Isaac Greener
2010	Melbourne Prize for Music 2010 David Jones Outstanding Musicians Award 2010 Ben Northey	Development Award 2010 Natalie Barbach
2009	Melbourne Prize for Literature 2009 Gerard Munane Best Writing Award 2009 Nam Le	Civic Choice Award 2009 Anna Papic
2008	Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2008 Alexander Knox Professional Development Award 2008 Tom Nicholson	VicUrban Award 2008 Louise Paramor Civic Choice Award 2008 Elena Miles
2007	Melbourne Prize for Music 2007 Paul Grabowsky Outstanding Musicians Award 2007 Genevieve Lacey	Development Award 2007 Julian Lingdon
2006	Melbourne Prize for Literature 2006 Helen Garner Best Writing Award 2006 Christos Tsiolkas	Civic Choice Award 2006 Harry von Doulos
2005	Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2005 Open Spatial Workshop Professional Development Award 2005 Karin Abernethy	Civic Choice Award 2005 Matthew de Mosier