Entries Open for Top Art Prize
Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2020 & Awards

- Over $120,000 prize pool available
- A valuable commission offered as a new category
- Open to Victorian sculptors only

Entries open today for the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2020 and Awards, one of Australia's most valuable and prestigious art prizes.

Open to Victorian sculptors, the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2020 and Awards will recognise and reward the abundant talent in the State.

The main Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2020 has changed focus this year. The Prize will uniquely 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 prize and award pool this year is valued at more than $120,000, with four categories offered including a valuable new commission.

Melbourne Prize Trust Executive Director and Founder, Mr Simon Warrender, said: "We would like to thank our many partners and patrons who have continued their support following the COVID-19 outbreak. Because of their belief in and commitment to the arts, the annual Melbourne Prize is proceeding in 2020."

"The four categories this year provide valuable opportunities to Victorian sculptors to both showcase and develop their practice, plus express their creative skill through the new category offering a commission," Mr Warrender said.

Sculpture today can be temporary or permanent and include a wide range of forms, practices and contexts. In the public domain especially, it may contribute to a sense of place and seek to engage, reflect and provoke community values and debate.

"In Victoria we have so many talented sculptors whose work has enhanced our arts and culture and added to the public domain," Mr Warrender said.

In its 16th year, the annual Melbourne Prize operates in a three-year cycle. The current cycle includes the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture (2020), the Melbourne Prize for Literature (2021) and the Melbourne Prize for Music (2022).

The Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2020 and Awards include the following categories:

- **$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 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

The online Entry Form is available at www.melbourneprize.org. Entries can be made by the individual artist or by nomination, except for the GURNER™ Commission. Entries close on 27 July 2020 at 5pm.

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 Slied Artist & Acting Head, VCA Art, Victorian College of the Arts, The University of Melbourne; and Pip Wallis Curator, Contemporary Art, National Gallery of Victoria.
Key dates:

- **Entries open**: 22 June 2020
- **Entries close**: 27 July 2020 at 5pm
- **Announcement of finalists**: 2 September 2020
- **Announcement of recipients**: 11 November 2020
- **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 at this challenging time, following the COVID-19 outbreak, is greatly appreciated and has enabled the 2020 Prize and Awards to proceed. Many of the partners and patrons have been with the Prize since inception. Please see below.

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

**Federation Square** is the Exhibition and Events partner and ‘home’ of the Melbourne Prize. The Melbourne Prize Trust appreciates Federation 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.

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

**The Vera Moore Foundation** is acknowledged and thanked for their support as major patron and sole patron of the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2020 and Awards. Thanks to the **Sofitel Melbourne On Collins** as our Corporate Partner.

– 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://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 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.
Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture & Awards - past recipients include:

**2017**
Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2020 - Daniel von Sturmer - Electric Light (facts/figures/federation square), 2020
Public Artwork Design Concept Award 2020 - Emma Anna - The Elocwean Rainbow, 2020
Professional Development Award 2020 - Bridie Lunney - Fold, 2020
Rural & Regional Development Award 2020 - Fayen d'Evie
Civic Choice Award 2020 - 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 Square)
Rural & Regional Development Award 2014 – Aleks Danko
Civic Choice Award 2014 – Kay Abude Piecework (Federation Square)

**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**
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**
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