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Bruce Reynolds wins the 21st Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize



Images: Peter Tilley, "The Next Voyage"; Bruce Reynolds, "Animal Kraters"; Nabilah Nordin, "Glut Cherry"

Bruce Reynolds has been announced as the winner of the **2022 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize**, ahead of the opening of the 21st anniversary exhibition at the new Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf. **The Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize** is Australia's pre-eminent prize for small sculpture and the first national acquisitive prize for an original sculpture of up to 80cm, presented by **Woollahra Council**. **Bruce Reynolds** has been awarded the **\$25,000 award**, for his work, "**Animal Kraters**", which will be acquired for the Council's permanent public collection, joining previous winners **Tim Silver, Robert Owen, Yvonne Kendall, Rhonda Sharpe** and **Mikala Dwyer**.

Winning artist Bruce Reynolds commented on the award: *"It is gratifying and validating to win this highly competitive award. It is a form of recognition representing the other side of studio practice, where labour is invested on faith, well away from the art world. This is especially so for artists working without representation or searching for a new model of relationship with their audience. Financially, it enables me to continue in the studio with increased resolve and ambition, keeping the distraction of costs at bay a while longer. My sincere thanks to all involved."*

Nabilah Nordin received the **Special Commendation Award** of **\$2,000** for "**Glut Cherry**", while **Peter Tilley** was selected for the **Mayor's Award**, winning **\$1,000** for "**The Next Voyage**".

Cr Susan Wynne, Mayor of Woollahra, said: *"It is always difficult choosing the Mayor's Award, however I was instantly drawn to Peter Tilley's work, "The Next Voyage". This piece is simple yet complex and each time I looked at it I felt something different and it took me on different journeys in my mind, which is exactly what great art is all about. Congratulations to everyone involved. Such incredible talent."*



The winning sculptures were chosen from a finalist group of **49** works, chosen through a blind selection process from **684** entries, by a judging panel comprised of Sydney-based artist **Joan Ross**, Gallery Director and Curator **José Da Silva** and editor of contemporary visual art publication Artist Profile, **Kon Gouriotis OAM**. Hailing from every state and territory in Australia, and New Zealand, finalists include **Ara Dolatian, Amala Groom, Franky Howell, Antoinette O'Brien, Leonie Rhodes, Lynda Draper, Mai Nguyen-Long, Michael Cusack, Pippin Drysdale** and **Vipoo Srivilasa**.

Exploring an eclectic mix of themes including loss of identity, decolonisation, the reimagining of ancient stories and artefacts and gender identity, the 2022 finalists' works will be on display at **Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf** in an exhibition running from **13 October to 20 November 2022**. All sculptures are on sale to the public with prices ranging from \$500-\$27,500. Admission is free and the gallery is open Wednesday to Sunday.

Sebastian Goldspink, Gallery Director, Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf, said: *"It was such a joy to be involved with this year's prize. There is a wide range of ideas and materials present. It was a great process placing the works in the space and seeing the exhibition come alive. I look forward to welcoming visitors of all ages to this much loved exhibition."*

2022 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize judges Joan Ross, Kon Gouriotis OAM and José Da Silva commented: *"The judges were unanimous in their choice of "Animal Krater" by Brisbane-based artist Bruce Reynolds. The work left a strong impression on the judges, who found the piece exceedingly fascinating and resolutely well-made. The form makes exquisite use of cast relief elements that capture the imprint of various surfaces. The collaged parts fuse to create a vessel that feels effortless and suggestive of different eras and uses. It is evocative of archaic pottery and the materiality of 3D printing and could be interpreted as a vessel and a nest, ornamental and practical, sculpture and painting."*

The Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize is a key annual event for the new Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf, which opened its doors in November 2021, hosting the Prize as its first exhibition. The **historic 122-year-old St Brigid's building**, owned by Woollahra Council, was restored and reinvented into a new Gallery space by **Tanner Kibble Denton Architects** to create four high calibre exhibition spaces, while keeping original details including crown moulding, arched windows and wooden flooring. Overlooking Sydney Harbour in Double Bay and spanning two levels. The Gallery is at the heart of a popular cultural precinct, including the 1863 Council Chambers, the picturesque Blackburn Gardens, Murray Rose Pool and Redleaf Beach.

Led by Gallery Director and proud descendant of the Burramattagal people of Western Sydney, **Sebastian Goldspink, Woollahra Gallery** has attracted visitors from across the world with a year-round program of contemporary art, recently winning the **Leo Kelly OAM Arts and Culture Award** as part of the **NSW Local Government Week 2022 Awards**.

Woollahra Council acknowledges the generous support of sponsors for the 2022 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize – Principal Sponsor: Mark Moran Vaucluse, Gold Sponsors: Tanya Excell, Kim Jackson & Scott Farquhar, D'Leanne Lewis, Laing and Simmons, Double Bay, Silver Sponsors: Catalina and Crawford's Casting.

Ends

MEDIA CONTACT: To request interviews, imagery and information in relation to the Prize and Gallery, please contact Articulate: Lily Capewell, lily@articulatepr.com.au, 0483872510 or Sasha Haughan, sasha@articulatepr.com.au, 0405 006 035

INSTALLATION IMAGES AVAILABLE [HERE](#) (Credit: Jacquie Manning)



ABOUT THE WOOLLAHRA SMALL SCULPTURE PRIZE

Established in 2001, the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize is Australia's pre-eminent award for small sculpture presented by Woollahra Council. The Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize attracts strong support from artists, collectors and critics and is the first national acquisitive prize for an original sculpture of up to 80cm in any dimension. Each year the winning work is acquired by Council and forms part of the permanent public collection which is on display for the community to enjoy for free. Visitors can discover some of the world's most exciting contemporary sculptures and be introduced to the most innovative artists working in the medium.

ABOUT WOOLLAHRA GALLERY AT REDLEAF

Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf located at 548 New South Head Road, Double Bay is a cultural hub in the community, a destination where all are welcome. Over its lifetime, this significant heritage building has had a rich and diverse history. It has been home to many important local families, the headquarters for the Royal Commission on Espionage, and a community-gathering place as the Woollahra Arts Centre. It was most recently the treasured Double Bay Library before its relocation to Kiaora Place. The vision of the gallery is to be the cultural heart of Woollahra and support creative talent to flourish. It is a collaborative space for all to connect with and be enriched by the arts. The gallery focuses on contemporary art through the yearly exhibition calendar of a range of diverse shows by different artists.

ABOUT SEBASTIAN GOLDSPINK

A proud descendent of the Burramattagal people of Western Sydney, Sebastian Goldspink is an independent curator and Founder of ALASKA projects. In 2011, Sebastian opened the ground-breaking space ALASKA projects as a platform to exhibit contemporary visual art in unused or disused spaces – showcasing over 500 artists across 150 exhibitions. Sebastian has curated exhibitions nationally in Australia and internationally in London, Los Angeles, New Orleans and Christchurch. He has collaborated with institutions including Museum of Contemporary Art, Museum of Old and New Art, National Art School, Performance Space, Art Month Sydney, Sydney Symphony and Kaldor Public Art Projects. Sebastian curated the 2022 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art for the Art Gallery of South Australia.

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