
Winner of the 23rd Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize

Embargo:
6:00pm, Thursday 12 September

Winner of the 23rd Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize

Exhibition Dates:
13 September - 20 October 2024

Address:
Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf, 548 New South Head Rd, Double Bay, NSW

Website:
woollahragallery.com.au.

Instagram:
[@woollahragallery](https://www.instagram.com/woollahragallery)

Media Centre

Media Contact
Jadan Carroll
jadan@commonstate.co
+61 405 818 120
commonstate.co



Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize Winner: Hannah Gartside #19 from the series 'Bunnies in Love, Lust and Longing', 2024.

Woollahra Council has proudly announced **Hannah Gartside** as the winner of the **23rd Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize**.

Australia's most prestigious award for small-scale sculpture, the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize is the first national acquisitive prize for original works up to 80cm in size. At a ceremony held at the gallery, Gartside was awarded the \$25,000 prize for **#19**, a piece in her ongoing series ***Bunnies in Love, Lust and Longing, 2024*** which will be acquired for the Council's permanent public collection.

After years of functioning as protection against impropriety and cold weather, the second-hand gloves bring to life tender interactions, and moments with oneself, through the form of anthropomorphised rabbits. Both deeply personal and fiercely communal, the works engage fundamental experiences and emotions endemic to our human condition.

Based in Melbourne, Gartside is a sculptor and installation artist working with found fabrics, clothing and ephemera to articulate experiences and sensations of longing, tenderness, care, desire and fury. Prior to her visual art training, Gartside worked as a costume-maker and dresser.

Commenting on the work, judge **Liz Nowell** said "***Bunnies in Love Lost and Longing #19*** by Hannah Gartside captivated the judges with its unexpected small scale and confident rendering of form. The use of repurposed gloves imbues the sculpture with a sense of nostalgia and everyday intimacy, evoking tenderness and care. Despite its modest size, the work drew us in with its emotional depth, creating a powerful sense of connection and vulnerability."

On winning the award, **Hannah Gartside** said: “I am honoured and humbled to have my work win the 2024 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize. I use discarded, worn materials because I believe in their inherent worth and value. These materials act as portals for storytelling, and receptive vessels for emotional expression. At times in my life I have felt devalued or discarded, and I made this work during one of those times. Have you ever heard the phrase, "the poem knows things the poet doesn't"? Well this sculpture showed me what I needed: aloneness, rest, introspection, and quietude. Having this personal work acknowledged in this way is deeply meaningful. I have been working as an artist since I graduated from art school in 2016, and this is my first major prize win, eight years on.”

Also awarded at the opening night ceremony was the **Special Commendation Award of \$2,000** with Girramay woman and emerging artist **Erica Muriata** selected for her work *Recycled Jawun, 2024*.

“Because of its technical execution, whilst remaining wholly experimental, the judges unanimously selected *Recycled Jawun 2024* by Girramay artist Erica Muriata for the Special Commendation Prize” said judge **Erin Vink**. “We congratulate Erica for her innovation and attempts to push the parameters of such an ancient and elegant utilitarian object. Erica's work strongly reinforces to its viewer that Aboriginal culture from Far North Queensland is ever-changing and alive.”

Additionally, **Mayor of Woollahra, Richard Shields** selected **Penny Howard's** *After School* for the **\$1,000 Mayor's Choice Award**. “This incredibly evocative and nostalgic work drew me in and reminded me of the afternoon snacks of my childhood. I had an instant emotional response to it,” the Mayor said.

Voting for the **\$1,000 Viewers' Choice Award** is open until midnight on 20 October, giving members of the public the opportunity to vote for their favourite sculpture via the Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf website. The winner will be announced on 21 October.



*Image: Special Commendation Award Winner, Erica Muriata, Recycled Jawun, 2024, wire, paint.
Photo courtesy of Jacqui Manning.*

The winning sculpture, and all of this year's finalists, representing a rich tapestry of artistic innovation and hailing from every Australian state and territory as well as overseas, are now on display at Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf. The free exhibition runs until **20 October 2024**, with all sculptures on sale to the public.

The exhibition marks the final project at the gallery for **Gallery Director Pippa Mott** ahead of her move to WAMA, The National Centre for Environmental Art, due to open in the Grampians in 2025. "It's been tremendously fun to produce something a bit more experimental in terms of exhibition design," said Mott. "We've made no attempt to tame the heterogeneity of our finalist works. Audiences will encounter rambunctious clustered displays and industrial exhibition furnishings, running counter to the genteel order of our heritage setting."

On **Saturday 21 September** the Gallery will present a program of artist talks, featuring **Andrew Lavery, Kirsty Collins, Grace Lee and Karen Black** in conversation with **Danielle Robson, Bonnie Cowan and Benjamin Clay**.

Over the course of the exhibition, artists **Kien Situ** and **Minka Gillian** will deliver workshops, and UAP will present a special panel discussion on **Professionalising Your Practice in the Public Sphere**.

--ENDS



Image: Mayor's Award winner Penny Howard, After School, 2022, Cotton and monofilament thread, polystyrene, wire. Photo courtesy of Jacqui Manning.

NOTES TO EDITOR**Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize Winner, \$25,000:**

Hannah Gartside

#19 from the series 'Bunnies in Love, Lust and Longing',

2024

*Found leather gloves, stainless steel wire, cotton fabric,
polyester sewing thread*

Hannah Gartside is a sculptor and installation artist working with found fabrics, clothing and ephemera to articulate experiences and sensations of longing, tenderness, care, desire and fury. Prior to her visual art training, Gartside worked as costume-maker and dresser.

#19 is part of the ongoing series 'Bunnies in Love Lust and Longing' that Gartside commenced in 2016. After years of functioning as protection against impropriety and cold weather, these second-hand gloves bring to life tender interactions, and moments with oneself, through the form of anthropomorphised rabbits. Both deeply personal and fiercely communal, the works engage fundamental experiences and emotions endemic to our human condition.

Special Commendation Award Winner, \$2,000:

Erica Muriata

Recycled Jawun, 2024

Wire, paint

Erica Muriata is a Girramay woman and an emerging artist working across painting and ceramics. Influenced by personal memories and cultural knowledge, her designs embody her identity and ancestors, sharing the stories of which she is the keeper. Girramay weavers of Far North Queensland are well known for their lawyer cane bicornual baskets called 'Jawun' – an important part of everyday lives, used to collect and carry bush food, babies, message sticks and many other objects. For *Recycled Jawun*, Muriata has created the traditional Jawun with modern resources, whilst upholding the customary weaving pattern.

Mayor's Award Winner, \$1,000:

Penny Howard

After School, 2022

Cotton and monofilament thread, polystyrene, wire

Penny Howard's creative practice brings together traditional sewing and quilting techniques with innovative and experimental ways of working with textiles.

After School depicts a classic after school snack instantly recognisable to Australian children of the 1960s and '70s. A slice of white bread spread with butter and Vegemite, a cold glass of milk topped with crunchy Milo and a chocolate chip biscuit summon memories of simpler times. This work is crafted from thread, heavily machine stitched onto water-soluble fabric. The stitched sections are moulded into shape when wet, requiring careful assembly by hand-sewing and internal supports.

Embargo: 6:00pm, Thursday 12 September

Winner of the 23rd Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize

Exhibition Dates: 13 September - 20 October 2024

Address: Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf, 548 New South Head Rd, Double Bay, NSW

Website: woollahragallery.com.au

Instagram: @woollahragallery

Media Centre

Media Contact Jadan Carroll jadan@commonstate.co +61 405 818 120 commonstate.co

Media Contact: Jadan Carroll, jadan@commonstate.co, 0405 818 120

Images are available to download from the media centre.

Key Dates

- Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize 2023 Exhibition: 13 September to 20 October
Viewers' Choice Award announced 21 October
Artist talks and workshops across exhibition dates

Gallery details

Address: Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf, 548 New South Head Rd, Double Bay, NSW

Opening hours: Wednesday 1-6 pm; Thursday and Friday 10 am-6 pm; Saturday and Sunday 10 am-5 pm

Entry: free

Platinum Sponsors

ARTIST PROFILE

Gold Sponsors

Kim Jackson & Scott Farquhar



Sandersons Rushcutters Bay



Silver Sponsors



D'LEANNE LEWIS Laing + Simmons Double Bay

mandalayflowers



CHISWICK

CATALINA