

MEDIA RELEASE

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Daniel von Sturmer wins coveted Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017

- Daniel von Sturmer awarded \$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017
- One of the most valuable sculpture awards in Australia with more than \$126,000 in cash and prizes
- More than \$1.2 million awarded to sculptors, writers and musicians since the inception of the annual Melbourne Prize in 2005
- Public voting for the \$4,000 Civic Choice Award 2017 is now open

Melbourne-based sculptor **Daniel von Sturmer** is the recipient of the coveted **Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017** for his work *Electric Light (facts/figures/Federation Square)*, 2017 – a light-based installation visible nightly from 8.30pm at Federation Square.

The \$60,000 prize was awarded to Daniel at a gala ceremony at Federation Square earlier this evening. The Prize is generously supported by **The Vera Moore Foundation, The Tallis Foundation** and the **Melbourne Prize Trust**. All six finalists were awarded an artist fee of \$4,000, generously supported by **C H (Roger) Brookes**.

In addition to the **Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017** the winner of the new **\$10,000 Public Artwork Design Concept Award 2017– *Crafting a City of Literature*** and the **Professional Development Award 2017** have also been announced.

Emma Anna was the recipient of the new **\$10,000 Public Artwork Design Concept Award 2017 – *Crafting a City of Literature*** for her design concept *The Elocwean Rainbow*, 2017 which draws inspiration from Melbourne's history, and in line with the award, celebrates Melbourne's designation as a UNESCO City of Literature. This award was made possible by the **Melbourne UNESCO City of Literature Office**.

Bridie Lunney was the recipient of **Professional Development Award 2017** for her work *Fold*, 2017. The Award consisted of \$10,000 cash supported by the **Melbourne Prize Trust**, a \$2,500 Qantas voucher credit and a professional practice residency at the Norma Redpath Studio in Carlton. This award is supported by the **Melbourne Prize Trust, the Victorian College of the Arts and Qantas**.

Minister for Creative Industries Martin Foley MP said The Victorian Government is a proud partner of the Melbourne Prize.

“Victoria is a place where some of our most exciting art can be seen 24 hours a day, because it is out in the community for everyone to enjoy,” the Minister said.

“Our urban sculptures commemorate and cajole, and connect with people of all ages and walks of life. They transform our public spaces, and inspire, even create, debate. This year's Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture celebrates the role sculpture plays in public life, and honours artists whose creativity and vision are reimagining the urban environment.

“Congratulations to all of this year's finalists and thank you for the contribution you make to our creative state,” he added.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle AC said the City of Melbourne takes pride in its creative and inspiring artistic community.

“We are proud to support the annual Melbourne Prize which has made a significant contribution to our city's rich cultural life through the recognition of artistic excellence,” the Lord Mayor said.

“In particular, I congratulate the winner and finalists for their entries in urban sculpture, a new category focussed on public art design concepts which are more relevant today than ever in the world's most liveable city,” he added.

Muckleford based sculptor, **Fayen d' Evie** was the recipient of the **\$40,000 Rural & Regional Development Award 2017**. Supported by **The Geoff and Helen Handbury Foundation**, this award provides opportunities to sculptors in rural and regional Victoria and was announced earlier this month.

The judging panel this year consisted of a highly-esteemed group including; **Max Delany**, Artistic Director & CEO, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, **Victoria Lynn**, Director, TarraWarra Museum of Art, **Professor Callum Morton**, Artist & Head of Fine Art, Monash University Art Design & Architecture, **Professor Marie Sierra**, Artist & Deputy Dean & Head of School UNSW Australia, Art & Design, **Simone Slee**, Artist & Head of Sculpture & Spatial Practice, Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne; and **Pip Wallis** - Curator, Contemporary Art, National Gallery of Victoria.

JUDGES STATEMENT: "The finalists work in the **Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017** deliver a rich consideration of public sculpture and embrace the public domain at a range of levels. Not only are the works accomplished, engaging and site responsive, they are resourceful and resonate with spatial, sensory, poetic and performative characteristics. The accomplishment of each of the works is exceptional making the decision one of the most difficult in the history of the Prize. The judges would like to congratulate each of the artists for their outstanding achievements, which, together, produce a significant exhibition which expands our experience and understanding of sculpture in the public realm.

The finalists in the Public Artwork Design Concept Award 2017 - *Crafting a City of Literature* were commended for their varied and imaginative approach to the design brief, which produced a field that was as diverse and it was engaging.

The judges congratulated the winner of the **Rural & Regional Development Award 2017** and **Professional Development Award 2017** and acknowledged and thank all finalists and entrants this year".

A \$4,000 Civic Choice Award 2017, supported by the **Melbourne Prize Trust**, has not yet been announced and will be awarded to one finalist across all award categories with the most public votes for their featured work. The public can cast their votes online at www.melbourneprize.org. Voters will go into the running to win a night at the **Sofitel Melbourne On Collins - Melbourne's Hotel for the Arts**. A list of this year's finalists across all Award categories can be found on page 3.

Simon Warrender, Executive Director of the Melbourne Prize Trust said the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017 and Awards would not be possible without the continued support of partners and patrons.

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

"The Melbourne Prize Trust appreciates the generous support of major patron **The Vera Moore Foundation** and all 2017 partners and patrons who, through their community investment, help to develop our creative resources and provide opportunities to benefit our abundant artistic talent through the annual Melbourne Prize," Mr Warrender added.

Federation Square is the Exhibition and Events partner and 'home' of the Melbourne Prize. This long-term partnership makes it possible for the public, visiting the free public exhibition each November, to engage with abundant talent in literature, music and (urban) sculpture and provides artists, writers and musicians with public exposure, in one of the country's most visited public spaces. The Melbourne Prize Trust appreciates Federation Square's generous support, which enhances creative resources and provides opportunities to promote Victoria's abundant artistic talent through the annual Melbourne Prize.

CEO of Federation Square Jonathan Tribe also congratulated this year's winners.

"I am delighted to welcome the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture back to Federation Square. It is a vital part of our arts calendar and we are pleased to, once again, support this important cultural event. As Melbourne's iconic meeting place, Federation Square is the perfect venue to showcase extraordinary artistic talent. Congratulations to all the finalists and winners", Mr Tribe said.

– Ends –

For more information or for interview opportunities please contact: **Nicolette Baxter** at Royce on (03) 8628 9320 or 0438 143 342. 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

Notes to the Editor:

The Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017 focuses on the urban environment and the importance of sculpture, in all its forms, to inform public spaces and enrich public life. It is unique in that it enables entrants to submit either a completed artwork, or a proposal for an artwork. **The 2017 finalists are:**

- Sarah crowEST
- Laresa Kosloff
- Bridie Lunney
- Sibling Architecture
- Daniel von Sturmer
- Susan Jacobs

All six finalists will have been awarded an artist fee of \$4,000, generously supported by **C H (Roger) Brookes**.

The (NEW) \$10,000 Public Artwork Design Concept Award 2017 – *Crafting a City of Literature* is supported by the Melbourne **UNESCO City of Literature Office** and seeks a design concept for a public artwork to celebrate Melbourne's designation as a UNESCO City of Literature. **The 2017 finalists are:**

- Emma Anna
- Catherine Clover
- Sue Buchanan and Eli Giannini
- Matthew Harding
- Louise Lavarack

The Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017 and Awards are made possible through the generous support of major patron **The Vera Moore Foundation**, and partners and patrons of the Melbourne Prize Trust. **Committee for Melbourne** and **Cornwell** are founding partners. Cornwell, has since inception, developed the award-winning identity and exhibition design for the annual Melbourne Prize and are joined this year by **Mr P Studios**.

About the Annual Melbourne Prize:

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.

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, the Melbourne Prize for Literature and the Melbourne Prize for Music. The Melbourne Prize for Literature will be offered in 2018.

Since inception, the annual Melbourne Prize has made available more than \$1,200,000 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.

For details on the Board of Directors and Management Committee of the Melbourne Prize Trust, please visit www.melbourneprize.org.

Past recipients include:

2014

Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2014 – **Geoff Robinson** *15 locations/15 minutes/15 days* 2014
 Professional Development Award 2014 – **Kay Abude** *Piecework (Federation Square)* 2014
 Rural & Regional Development Award 2014 – **Aleks Danko**
 Civic Choice Award 2014 – **Kay Abude** *Piecework (Federation Square)* 2014

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
 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 2017 partners and patrons

Government Partners	Patrons	Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2017 Partners	Rural & Regional Development Award 2017 Partner	Public Artwork Design Concept Award 2017 – <i>Crafting a City of Literature</i>
			The Geoff and Helen Handbury Foundation	
	vera moore FOUNDATION	vera moore FOUNDATION	Professional Development Award 2017 Partners	Civic Choice Award 2017 Partner
Founding Partners	Diana Gibson AO			
	C H (Roger) Brookes	BELEURA HOUSE & GARDEN MORNINGTON	FACULTY OF VCA & MCM	MELBOURNE PRIZE TRUST™
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Building a better working world	QANTAS Spirit of Australia	Creative Partners	Media Communications	ELLIKON FINE PRINTERS
MinterEllison			ROYCE COMMUNICATIONS	Spicers
Exhibition & Event Partner	Professional Services	MR.P	Exhibition Consultant	Broadcast Partner
	Grant Thornton	Exhibition Signage & AV	Coleby Consulting	3AW693 NEWS TALK
Wine + Awards Catering Partner	Engineering Consultant	premiergraphics architectural & environmental signage	IT Services	Banners
ROBERT OATLEY			The Mighty Wonton	Trophies
TREAT CATERING & EVENTS			Names24	
				

Design by Cornwell and Mr P Studios
 Committee for Melbourne a founding supporter