

MEDIA RELEASE - Thursday 13 November 2014 / For immediate release

Winner announced for coveted urban sculpture prize celebrating 10th Anniversary

- **Geoff Robinson** awarded \$60,000 Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2014
- **Kay Abude** receives \$10,000 Professional Development Award 2014
- The annual Melbourne Prize celebrates its 10th anniversary this year
- All six finalist works exhibited at Federation Square until 24 November
- Public voting for the six finalist for the \$4,000 Civic Choice Award 2014 now open
- **Daylesford-based Alex Danko** receives the inaugural Rural & Regional Development Award 2014

Melbourne-based sculptor **Geoff Robinson** is the recipient of the coveted **Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2014** for his work *15 locations / 15 minutes / 15 days*, 2014.

The \$60,000 prize has been awarded, in recognition of Geoff's contribution to the urban environment through his work, at a gala ceremony at Federation Square. The Prize is generously supported by **The Vera Moore Foundation**, **The Tallis Foundation** and the **Melbourne Prize Trust**.

Kay Abude has been awarded the **Professional Development Award 2014** for her work *Piecework (Federation Square)*, 2014. The Award consists of \$10,000 cash supported by the **Melbourne Prize Trust**, a \$2,500 **Qantas** international airfare credit and a professional practice opportunity supported by **Sculpture & Spatial Practice**, **VCA**, **The University of Melbourne**. Please see the judges statements for Geoff Robinson and Kay Abude on page 2.

See these and the other finalists **John Nixon**, **Scott Mitchell**, **Louise Paramor** and **Spiros Panigirakis** at the Federation Square exhibition 10 - 24 November 2014. All six works by the finalists are on public display at Federation Square until 24 November. An artist fee of \$4,000 has been made available by the **Helen Macpherson Smith Trust** to each finalist to assist in developing their work for the exhibition.

Simon Warrender, **Executive Director of the Melbourne Prize Trust**, "The projects of each finalist shown at the exhibition are testimony to their talent and hard work".

"We congratulate the recipients this year and thank all finalists and entrants. The caliber of the entries and finalists demonstrates we have a vibrant creative sector in Victoria with abundant talent in sculpture. The Prize celebrates its 10th anniversary this year has been made possible by the support and generosity of our partners and patrons, all of whom recognise the importance of investing in the community to foster our creative resources," Mr Warrender added.

The Minister for the Arts, The Hon. Heidi Victoria MP said: "This year the Melbourne Prize provides deserved recognition for Victorian artists whose work shapes and defines our urban landscape. It's a great showcase and celebration of contemporary urban sculpture, and of our great local talent. Congratulations to all the winners and finalists."

Lord Mayor of Melbourne Robert Doyle said: "The annual Melbourne Prize recognises the contribution local artists make to the city's urban environment. Melbourne remains one of the world's great creative cities because of the diversity and calibre of our artists. The annual Melbourne Prize contributes to our city's rich cultural life by rewarding the talent of local sculptors. I congratulate the winner and wish the finalists every success in their future creative endeavours."

The judging panel this year consisted of a highly-esteemed group including **Tony Ellwood**, Director, National Gallery of Victoria, **Juliana Engberg**, Artistic Director, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, **Professor Callum Morton**, Head of Fine Art, MADA, Monash University Art Design & Architecture and Sculptor, **Professor Marie Sierra**, Artist & Deputy Dean and Head of School UNSW Australia Art & Design, **Simone Slee**, Artist & Head, Sculpture & Spatial Practice, School of Art, Victorian College of the Arts, Faculty of VCA and MCM, The University of Melbourne.

In addition, the **\$4,000 Civic Choice Award 2014**, supported by **Federation Square** and **Sofitel Melbourne On Collins**, will be awarded to one of the six finalists in the *Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2014* with the highest number of public votes. Online voting commences from the opening of the free public exhibition at Federation Square on 10 November, and concludes on 24 November. Voting will also be possible using the free finalist catalogue, which will be available at the exhibition, or online at www.melbourneprize.org. By casting a vote the public have a chance to win an overnight stay at the Sofitel Melbourne On Collins, Melbourne's hotel for the arts. The recipient will be announced on November 28.

Federation Square is the exhibition and events partner and 'home' of the annual Melbourne Prize. Federation Square reflects and cultivates Melbourne's pre-eminence as a centre for creativity and innovation. The team at Federation Square is dedicated to working with artists and creative practitioners to create provocative works that respond specifically to the unique physical and social environment that is Melbourne's meeting place.

Federation Square's long-term partnership with the annual Melbourne Prize makes it possible for the public, visiting the free public exhibition each November, to engage with abundant talent in literature, music and (urban) sculpture. It provides artists with public exposure in one of the country's most visited public spaces. At our 10th anniversary, the Melbourne Prize Trust appreciates Federation Square's generous support, which enhances our creative resources and provides opportunities to promote our abundant artistic talent through the annual Melbourne Prize.

Last month, Daylesford-based artist **Aleks Danko** became the inaugural recipient of the **\$40,000 Rural & Regional Development Award 2014**, generously supported by **The Geoff and Helen Handbury Foundation**, in recognition of his portfolio of work and proposal for new work to be presented in Victorian rural centres Bendigo and Ballarat. Aleks received the award at Federation Square with the other recipients. Information on Aleks is available as part of the Federation Square exhibition.

Judges Statement for the recipients:

Geoff Robinson - 15 locations / 15 minutes / 15 days, 2014.

Ringling bells mark space and time. The sound of ringing bells have the capacity to reverberate around and through bodies, temporarily mapping a place by demarcating it aurally and interacting with the acoustic nature of surfaces that reflect or absorb sound. They call a community together and join it through a shared experience. Geoff Robinson's project uses the 15 Federation hand bells struck for the centenary of Federation in 2001 to create a sound space that is both communal and architectural, reiterating the assembly of Federation Square and its purpose as a meeting place for all called to action and idea. Occurring once a day throughout the duration of the exhibition, the bells, rung by 15 people, offer a quarter-hour of auratic beauty and performative engagement. Open and potential, they call between themselves to create a relay that travels around and through the square, implicating, in the most generous of ways, the people around whom the sound travels and rallies.

Kay Abude - Piecework (Federation Square), 2014

The nature of labour, with its economic, repetitive and somatic properties, is addressed in the work of Kay Abude. The market stall, the factory production line, the family business, the migrant or shift worker, and the role ordinary people play in the production of corporate or government capital are called to mind as she and members of her family produce faux gold bars. As an uncanny insertion, the work makes visible hidden processes of production that underpin the spectacle of the city. The activity of work, or lack of it, touches all lives, bringing us together in the massification of cities, or sending us travelling to make and maintain connections. Kay's project singles out the process of labour for its focus, and occurs every day, with a 24 hour shift running over the weekend. Work both connects and separates us, taking so much of our time that it comes to define our lives, and it is this common element that Kay unfolds in her project.

Judges Statement for the finalists: Kay Abude, John Nixon, Scott Mitchell, Louise Paramor, Spiros Panigirakis and Geoff Robinson:

The judges were delighted with the response to the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2014. The six finalists selected all explore site, space and place in highly sophisticated ways. The works embody a rather quiet spectacle, nuanced situations and a determination to often share both the process and indeed construction of the work with the audience. The context for many works radiate out from Federation Square, connecting to other urban spaces and ultimately to spaces we cannot see. At the finalist exhibition at Federation Square (10th to 24th November) the public will be immersed in ideas and works that point to another definition of what urban sculpture can be or represent. The judges would like to thank all applicants this year for their entries.

– Ends –

Interview opportunity

- Interviews with Simon Warrender, Executive Director of the Melbourne Prize Trust, and this year's Melbourne Prize recipients available on request.

Picture opportunity

- The winner of the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture with their work at Federation Square
- The recipient of the Professional Development Award 2014 with their work at Federation Square
- All finalists with their work at Federation Square

For more information or for interview opportunities please contact: Richard Amos or Tony Faccenda at Royce on (03) 8628 9362 or 0418 344 978 and 0411 231 433 respectively. 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/reporter:

The annual Melbourne Prize is celebrating its 10th anniversary. It is one of the most valuable prizes of its kind in Australia and runs in a three-year cycle, which includes the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture (2014), the Melbourne Prize for Music (2015), and the Melbourne Prize for Literature (2016).

Since inception the annual Melbourne Prize has made available more than \$1 million in prizes and award, artist residencies, equipment/instrument grants and an annual public exhibition at Federation Square to Victorian writers, sculptors and musicians.

The *Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2014 and Awards* are made possible through the generous support of partners and patrons of the Melbourne Prize Trust, which can be seen below and at www.melbourneprize.org.

Government partners include the State Government through Arts Victoria and the City of Melbourne. The Prize is an initiative of the Committee for Melbourne. The complete design and identity is by Cornwell www.cornwell.com.au.

Past recipients and alumni include:

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

The annual Melbourne Prize alumni 2005 to 2013



Melbourne Prize for Music 2010
David Jones

Outstanding Musicians Award 2010
Ben Northey

Development Award 2010
Natalie Bartsch



Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2011
Bianca Hester

Professional Development Award 2011
Isaac Greener & Lucas Maddock

Civic Choice Award 2011
Isaac Greener & Lucas Maddock



Melbourne Prize for Literature 2012
Alex Miller

Best Writing Award 2012
Craig Sherborne

Civic Choice Award 2012
Tony Birch



Melbourne Prize for Music 2013
Brett Dean

Outstanding Musicians Award 2013
Stephen Magnusson

Development Award 2013
Kate Kelsey-Sugg

Civic Choice Award 2013
Mick Harvey



Melbourne Prize for Literature 2009
Gerald Murnane

Best Writing Award 2009
Nam Le

Civic Choice Award 2009
Amra Pajalic



Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2008
Alexander Knox

Professional Development Award 2008
Tom Nicholson

VicUrban Award 2008
Louise Paramor

Civic Choice Award 2008
Elaine Miles



Melbourne Prize for Music 2007
Paul Grabowski

Outstanding Musicians Award 2007
Genevieve Lacey

Development Award 2007
Julian Langdon



Melbourne Prize for Literature 2006
Helen Garner

Best Writing Award 2006
Christos Tsiolkas

Civic Choice Award 2006
Henry von Doussa



Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2005
Open Spatial Workshop

Professional Development Award 2005
Karen Abernethy

Civic Choice Award 2005
Matthew de Moiser

Thank you to our 2014 partner and patrons.

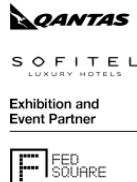
Government Partners



Founding Partners



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Patrons



Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture 2014 Partners



Rural & Regional Development Award 2014 Patron



Professional Development Award 2014 Partner



Media Communications



Professional Services



Broadcast Partner



Exhibition Signage & AV



Trophies



Banners



Wine Partner



Print Partners



IT Services



Exhibition Consultant



Design by Cornwell

an initiative of the Committee for Melbourne



The annual Melbourne Prize is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

To mark this milestone, there will be a significant category added to each annual Melbourne Prize over the current cycle 2014 to 2016.

Thank you to the many patrons and partners for their generous support.

Trophies – Design by Cornwell, fabrication by Fundere Fine Art Foundry, Melbourne.

