

MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED until Sunday September 27, 2020

PERPETUAL AND SCULPTURE BY THE SEA ANNOUNCE RECIPIENTS OF PRESTIGIOUS \$30,000 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR AUSTRALIAN ARTISTS

****SCULPTURE BY THE SEA, BONDI 2020 EXHIBITION POSTPONED****



Stephen King's new work for *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi*, 'Gridlock'

Perpetual and Sculpture by the Sea are pleased to announce the recipients of this year's three \$30,000 Helen Lempriere Scholarships:

Senior Artist
Mid-Career Artist
Emerging Artist

Stephen King (Walcha, NSW)
Andrew Townsend (Wapengo, NSW)
Jina Lee (Fremantle, WA)

The Helen Lempriere Scholarships are designed to enable the artists to further their artistic development through travel, study and the purchase of important new equipment. The scholarships will also support the artists' inclusion in *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi*, which will be postponed from the previously announced 22 October date. Organisers are working with Waverley Council and NSW Government agencies, including NSW Health on whether it may be possible to stage the exhibition later in the spring.

The scholarships are gifted as part of the Helen Lempriere Bequest, a charitable trust managed by Perpetual, providing scholarships with the aim to foster and promote contemporary Australian sculpture. Thirty-four artists from across Australia have received the Helen Lempriere Scholarship since 2010, totalling more than \$1 million in investment in the cultural life of Australia.

The 2020 recipients were selected by Dr Malcom Bywaters, Senior Lecturer, Academic Director – Academy Gallery & Exhibitions, University of Tasmania.

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Bondi

22 October - 8 November 2020
(Postponed: New Dates TBC)

Cottesloe

5 - 22 March 2021

Sydney Exhibition Patrons
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Hailing from regional New South Wales and Perth, Western Australia, the three artists showcase a variety of working styles and materials. Pending travel restrictions, each artist intends to use the scholarship funding for international or interstate travel to broaden their artistic knowledge, and to upgrade studio equipment and tools.

Sculpture by the Sea Founding Director, David Handley AM said, "We congratulate and are delighted for these three artists to each receive a Helen Lempriere Scholarship, which will help support the development of their practice and their inclusion in the rescheduled exhibition. We also wish to express our gratitude to Perpetual and the Helen Lempriere Bequest for their continued support of *Sculpture by the Sea* in Australia, especially in these challenging times."

"Due to current Public Health Orders limiting mass outdoor gatherings, our 2020 event will not be going ahead as planned on 22 October to 8 November. *Sculpture by the Sea*, and Waverley Council are, however, reviewing potential new dates for the 2020 exhibition including staging the event later this year or early next year. We are continuing to work with the Council and NSW Government agencies, including NSW Health on reviewing all options for an exhibition that will ensure safe attendance."

"Over 100 Australian and international artists have collectively spent around \$1.5-\$1.8M to create and freight their sculptures from around the world, so it was important to wait and see if there was any chance we could proceed with this year's exhibition as planned. Now, like everyone, we are waiting to see what might be possible, being mindful that everyone's health comes first."

Selected as the Senior Artist to receive a Helen Lempriere Scholarship this year, Stephen King is an artist of national significance who works across sculpture, printmaking and painting. Inspired by nature and his life as a grazier, he is fascinated by our relationship with the environment; genetics and the continuum of life; and the impact of climate change. King studied at Sydney College of the Arts and, after graduating, moved to London to study printmaking at St Martin's School of Arts. Upon his return to Australia in the mid-1980s he moved back to the family property in Walcha, NSW where he continues to live and work.

King has exhibited extensively in commercial and regional galleries within Australia and internationally since 1979. He has created an enormous body of work for public and private commissions and represented Australia at the Inami Wood Carving Symposium in 2007. King's participation at the next *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi* exhibition sees him join the Double Decade Club, just the third artist to have exhibited at *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi* 20 times or more. In 2013, he received the major award at *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi* for his work, 'Fallout', which was gifted for permanent public placement in Headland Park at Georges Heights.

King commented, "I am very honoured and grateful to be the recipient of this Helen Lempriere Scholarship. This will be the twentieth time I have had the opportunity to exhibit at *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi* and this scholarship will not only help me achieve this, but it will give me the opportunity to travel to New Zealand for the first time to visit the famous Gibbs Farm and other important sculpture collections. I also plan to do an art trip to the Larapinta region in the Northern Territory, where I hope to do drawings and make some small sculptures from local timbers."

Sculpture by the Sea is a series of exhibitions presented along the 2km Bondi to Tamarama coastal walk in Sydney and at Cottesloe Beach in Perth each year. *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi* began in 1997 as a one-day exhibition run by volunteers featuring works by 64 artists and attended by 25,000 visitors. Since then, the event has grown to become the largest annual sculpture exhibition in the world featuring numerous esteemed international artists and is enjoyed by approximately 450,000 visitors over three weeks.

For further information on *Sculpture by the Sea* or interviews with the artists, please contact:

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Notes to the Editor:

Mid-Career Artist: Andrew Townsend – Biography and Quote

Andrew Townsend is known for his striking and commanding sculptures often depicting horses, kangaroos and people with animals. He has had numerous solo exhibitions, beginning with his early practice in painting and collage in 1985, and has exhibited in over 30 group shows with his collaborator and partner, artist Suzie Bleach. The pair were commissioned to create a public work of art in Hughes, ACT near their former home of Braidwood, NSW. Townsend and Bleach now continue to collaborate from their south coast home of Wapengo, NSW. Their convincingly life-like figures are created thanks to an understanding of 3D anatomy and body language, inspired by their observations from life.

Together with Bleach, Townsend will return to *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi* for his seventh show and has exhibited at Cottesloe twice. The creative couple received the People's Choice Prize at *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi* 2010 and again at the Cottesloe show in 2016. While each Helen Lempriere Scholarship is awarded to a single artist, Townsend will use the funding to procure studio equipment and tools to share with his collaborator.

Said Townsend: "I am honoured to be a recipient of the Helen Lempriere Scholarship 2020. It feels like a welcome acknowledgement of a 28-year sculpture practice in close collaboration with my partner, Suzie Bleach. Our professional practice has been solidly supported over many of those years by *Sculpture by the Sea*, bringing vast audiences, memorable experiences and fertile opportunities, including this award. The scholarship will help to augment our studio with a forklift, refresh our website and assist with ongoing research. It will support the production of a new work, 'A Wounded Land', for *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi* 2020 and, if Covid-19 scenarios allow in 2021, a road trip/reconnaissance into the arid interior of Australia."

Emerging Artist: Jina Lee – Biography and Quote

Perth-based emerging artist Jina Lee focuses on simplified organic shapes sculpted into a variety of stones, primarily using marble or granite. Lee began her study of sculpture at Kaywon Arts School in South Korea in 1999 and completed her Master of Fine Arts, majoring in Stone Sculpture, at Kookmin University, South Korea in 2009. She has participated at international sculpture symposiums in Japan and produced sculptures for public spaces and private collections in South Korea, Australia and Switzerland.

Since arriving in Australia in 2013, Lee has exhibited in *Sculpture by the Sea, Cottesloe* six times as well as a number of other important group exhibitions, including the City of Melville Sculpture Walk (2014, 2015, 2016) and Swell Sculpture Festival (2014). She was the recipient of the *Sculpture by the Sea, Cottesloe* 2018 Rio Tinto WA Emerging Sculptor Mentorship, and this will be her second time exhibiting at *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi*. Lee has been an artist in residence at Greg James Sculpture Studio Gallery at J SHED in Fremantle, WA since 2014 and is supported by a local stone business.

Lee said: "It is a great honour to be a recipient of the Helen Lempriere Scholarship. When I heard about this exciting news, the endless possibilities of what I could achieve with this scholarship started flying through my mind. As experience is very important to my development, I am excited to take this opportunity to travel when it is possible and happy to think that I am able to improve the working conditions in my studio, especially with heavy stone lifting and stone dust."

Background to the Helen Lempriere Bequest

As one of Australia's most prestigious annual prizes for sculpture in Australia, the Helen Lempriere Scholarships foster and promote contemporary Australian sculpture.

The Scholarships are a realisation of a bequest made by the late Keith Wood to honour his wife, Helen Lempriere. Helen was one of Australia's leading female artists in the mid-20th century, attracting national and international acclaim for her painting, printmaking and sculpture.

Serving as a fitting legacy for Helen Lempriere and her belief in supporting the arts, the Scholarships fulfil Keith's aims of making a significant philanthropic contribution to the arts while commemorating Helen, a leading figure in the development of a unique Australian aesthetic.

The Scholarships serve to advance artists' careers through study or research and are held in partnership with *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi*.

Managed by Perpetual as a charitable trust operating in perpetuity, the Helen Lempriere Bequest has provided over \$2.1 million in funding support for Australian artists since the trust was established in 1996.

About Perpetual Philanthropic Services

Perpetual is one of Australia's largest managers of philanthropic funds, with \$2.9 billion in funds under advice for charitable trusts and endowment funds (as at 30 June 2020). Perpetual is trustee for many charitable trusts and endowments and provides individuals and families with advice on establishing charitable foundations and structured giving programs. Perpetual also assists charities and not-for-profit organisations with investment advice and management.

For more information visit www.perpetual.com.au/philanthropy.