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\$30,000 Helen Lempriere Scholarships - 2010 winning sculptors announced

Perpetual, in conjunction with *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi* has today announced the three Australian sculptors awarded the Helen Lempriere Scholarships for 2010, each worth \$30,000:

- Michael Le Grand from Murrumbateman, ACT
- Matthew Harding from Melbourne, VIC
- Dave Horton from Stanwell Park, NSW.

The Helen Lempriere Scholarships were established through the Helen Lempriere Bequest. The Bequest aims to advance the careers of individual artists by enabling them to travel, study and further their artistic development.

The three artists, who are at various stages of their careers, intend to use the scholarship funds for very different purposes.

- **Michael Le Grand** is the former Head of Sculpture at the Australian National University. Michael was the Co-Recipient of the major prize at the first *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi* in 1997 and a previous recipient of an Australia Council travel grant. He intends to travel to Japan to study a Japanese method of bending steel to make fishing boats and to adapt this process to make his sculptures.

'This is terrific and affording me the wonderful opportunity to explore some potentialities that are directly linked to my practice which would otherwise be very difficult to achieve.' Michael Le Grand.

- **Matthew Harding** is a mid-career sculptor who has exhibited across Australia for the past two decades, including several times in the Helen Lempriere exhibition at Werribee Park. Matthew will travel to Europe and is exploring a whole range of opportunities including basing himself at Studio Sem, in Pietrasanta, Italy where he will carve marble for several months while undertaking other studio residencies and short courses such as at the Academia d'arte, Mortola.

'It is very gratifying to be recognised for the hard work and dedication required in order to make a living from sculpture and I am greatly indebted to the extraordinary generosity of the late Keith Wood. This scholarship will provide me with the means to further expand my practice through education, collaboration and exposure to sculpture internationally. I consider myself lucky to be a part of a very talented and diverse community of Australian sculptors and I hope that I can 'give back' and share this experience with my peers.' Matthew Harding.

- **Dave Horton**, is an emerging artist based on the south coast of NSW where he lives with his young family. Dave has a fast developing reputation after he received the main prize at *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi* in 2007. A graduate of the National Art School, where he currently teaches sculpture, Dave intends to travel to Europe, Japan and the USA for the first time to visit the great art galleries and sculpture parks of the world. On his return he wants to improve the sculpture making facilities of his fledgling studio.

'I am thrilled to be awarded this scholarship. It will make it possible for me to see some of the greatest works of art in person. Having a young family, I had resigned myself to travel after my children had finished school. I can now afford to see these works in my formative years of being an artist.' Dave Horton.

The scholarship recipients were chosen from all of the Australian sculptors who applied for *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi* 2010. The members of the curatorial panel for the Bondi exhibition prepared a short list of candidates, with the final decision made by the academics (as required by the terms of the bequest). The curatorial panel includes Belinda Cobby, Curator, City of Perth; Geoffrey Edwards, Director, Geelong Gallery and former Curator Sculpture & Glass National Gallery of Victoria; Dr Michael Hill, Lecturer, National Art School; and Ron Robertson-Swann OAM, Sculptor and Head of Sculpture at the National Art School.

'It was an interesting process and lots of worthy sculptors were considered. The three sculptors have an excellent track record of substantial achievements. It's not a ranking of the top three sculptors in Australia. These scholarships are not set up with that in mind but to ensure the continued development of sculptors committed to sculpture. These three sculptors have shown a variety in their work and an openness to continuing to learn and will really benefit from the scholarship funds,' said Dr Michael Hill, representing the curatorial panel.

The Founding Director of *Sculpture by the Sea* David Handley added, 'The great thing is next year another three Australian sculptors will be chosen and the year after another three. This is very quickly going to benefit many sculptors right across Australia. It is very special to think that someone who has never met these artists established a bequest that will give each of them such a significant boost to their careers, which in turn will have a considerable impact on sculpture as an art form in Australia.'

Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi, is the world's largest annual free-to-the-public outdoor sculpture exhibition, transforming Sydney's Bondi to Tamarama coastal walk each spring into a major sculpture park enjoyed by over 400,000 visitors in just three weeks. This year's exhibition runs from 28 October until 14 November.

The Helen Lempriere Bequest is a charitable trust managed by Perpetual, with the purpose of providing scholarships for the applied arts and crafts. Andrew Thomas, Perpetual General Manager Philanthropy said, 'Perpetual is proud to play an important role in ensuring Helen Lempriere's legacy creates new and exciting opportunities for Australian sculptors. The Lempriere bequest demonstrates the ongoing contribution that private sector giving can make to the arts, and we're delighted that it will provide \$30,000 each to these three talented and committed sculptors.'

For further information, please contact:

Fiona Nix
National Publicity Manager
Sculpture by the Sea
02 9211 6650
fiona@nixco.com.au

Claire Crethar
Marketing Coordinator – Philanthropy
Perpetual
02 9229 3450
claire.crethar@perpetual.com.au

Background to the Helen Lempriere Bequest

The bequest was created through the will of the Late Keith Wood, husband of the late Australian artist, Helen Lempriere. The bequest began in 1996. Perpetual was appointed as, and continues to be, the sole trustee of the bequest. The terms of the bequest include managing the trust in perpetuity, and distributing net income in perpetuity via the provision of scholarships for students of applied arts and crafts.

The bequest is a fitting legacy for Helen Lempriere and her belief in supporting Australian artists. As a charitable trust operating in perpetuity, the bequest is able to do this through annual scholarships funded by income it receives from its endowment with Perpetual.

The bequest has a standing arrangement with the NSW Ministry of the Arts (ArtsNSW) to contribute \$25,000 pa to the \$60,000 Helen Lempriere Travelling Art Scholarship, a competitive scholarship managed by ArtsNSW. The competition and the annual prize-giving ceremony take place each August at Artspace in Sydney.

Up until 2008 the bequest also supported the Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Awards at Werribee Park. In December 2009 Perpetual identified Sculpture by the Sea Inc. as the most appropriate partner to help Perpetual with the selection and administration of the Helen Lempriere Scholarships, three \$30,000 scholarships for Australian sculptors.

About Perpetual Philanthropy

Perpetual is one of the largest managers of private charitable foundations in Australia, with over \$1.1 billion in funds under management, as at 31 December 2009. Perpetual is trustee to more than 450 charitable trusts which support cultural, medical, social, environmental, religious and educational causes.