

Sydney Sculpture Conference 2020: Speaker Biographies

Proudly presented by Sculpture by the Sea



Yvonne Weldon: Chairperson of Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, New South Wales

Yvonne Weldon is the Chairperson of Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council. She is a proud Wiradjuri woman and maintains strong ties to her homelands of Cowra and the Riverina areas in New South Wales.

Yvonne has 20 years' experience working in key government and Aboriginal organisations. She has worked in senior positions in Aboriginal policy development, health, human services, sexual assault, housing, disability and Aboriginal heritage.



Hon Paul Fletcher MP: Federal Member for Bradfield
 Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts

Paul Fletcher MP is the Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts in the Morrison Government.

He entered Parliament in December 2009 as the Member for Bradfield; was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Communications in September 2013; Minister for Major Projects, Territories, and Local Government in September 2015; Minister for Urban Infrastructure in July 2016; Minister for Urban Infrastructure and Cities in December 2017; Minister for Families and Social Services in August 2018 and was appointed to his present role in May 2019.

Before entering Parliament, Paul was Director, Corporate and Regulatory Affairs, at Optus for eight years; established a consulting firm serving the communications sector; and in 2009 his book about broadband, *Wired Brown Land* was published by UNSW Press.

Earlier in his career Paul was Chief of Staff to the Minister for Communications in the Howard Government, Senator Richard Alston.

He has dual first class honours degrees in law and economics from The University of Sydney and an MBA from Columbia University in New York where he was a Fulbright Scholar.

Paul has been a member of the Liberal Party since he was 16 and was active in student politics at Sydney University. He was a champion university debater, twice reaching the finals of the World Universities Debating Championship.

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Takuro Kurokouchi: Chief Curator, The Hakone Open-Air Museum, Japan
 Chokoku-no-mori Art Foundation

Takuro Kurokouchi was born in Shizuoka Prefecture in 1968. After graduating from Nova Scotia College of Art and Design Studio Division in 1992, Kurokouchi joined The Hakone Open-Air Museum in 1993.

Kurokouchi's specialty is modern and contemporary sculpture and he is currently in charge of conservation, landscape design, curatorial affairs and collection management at the Hakone Open-Air Museum. Kurokouchi has planned and curated many sculpture exhibitions for the museum such as "Motoi Yamamoto Exhibition" (2011), "Shinji Ohmaki Exhibition" (2012), and "UJINO Exhibition" (2013).



Yi Cui (China): Artist Exhibiting at 'Sculpture Encounters – Granite Island'

In 2016, Yi Cui graduated from the Sculpture and Public Art college of the China Academy of Art with a MFA, during which she did an exchange to the University of Fine Arts Münster, in Germany on a scholarship. Her works have been exhibited in major cities in China, as well as in Germany, France, Italy and Australia.

In 2019, Cui won the Annual Academic Award of the 10th New Star Art Awards and was funded by Australia Council for the Arts. In 2017, her first year after graduation, Cui was part of the Arte Laguna Prize presented in Nappe Arsenale Nord Venice and won the Citizens Choice Award of the 3rd Nanjing International Art Festival. Cui has exhibited in *Sculpture by the Sea* four times and won the Emerging Artist Award of *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi* 2017.

Cui describes her recent art practices as interpreting "publicity" in the reality context, from the perspective of individual experience. The subject matter comes from daily life and 'performative' social occasions seen through her eyes, which is biased towards the experience and expression of 'body presence', to explore how to build a bridge between Self and the other, by the body perception in "material reality". At the same time, Cui pays attention to the daily material media of consumer society and urban renewal process, cruising in its point-like experiences and practicing a kind of garden wandering-like perceptual transformation.

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Giuliana De Felice (New South Wales | New Zealand): Artist Exhibiting at 'Sculpture Encounters – Granite Island'

Sydney-based artist Giuliana De Felice was born in the United Kingdom and grew up between England, Italy and New Zealand before settling in Sydney 2005.

An internationally award winning Creative Director, De Felice has specialised in text-based sculpture for over 15 years. Her work references the meeting point of historic, cultural and personal narratives gathered during extensive travels. Exploring the concept of context and environment, De Felice sculpts language and symbolic form that brings materiality to words, phrases & memories.

Utilising her background in conceptual writing and design, De Felice's sculpture exhibited at 'Sculpture Encounters – Granite Island', Victor Harbour, creates a unique exchange between the audiences and objects; recollecting both the past and everyday along with personal histories.

De Felice is represented in private collections internationally and in public spaces. She has also exhibited at *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi* in 2009 and most recently *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi* 2019.



Hamish McMillan (South Australia): Artist Exhibiting at 'Sculpture Encounters – Granite Island'

As a self-described observer, South Australian artist Hamish McMillan searches for a question worth asking, before setting about creating a way to elicit a response or provoke thought, for people to reflect on how they see the world around them, to ask the viewer to consider, just where they fit.

McMillan's background as a creative thinker and qualified building designer sees him strive to pull together works that engage directly with the viewer in tangible ways, to shine light on the human condition in a moment of time and place. With an arts practice not bound to a particular medium, McMillan's approach is that of exploration, lodged firmly in the principals of conversation and story-telling. Each work is designed to speak with the viewer, to encourage a dialogue between the piece and a person's own context allowing space for people to gain further meaning on subsequent revisits to a work.

Having studied formally across various mediums and disciplines, McMillan has exhibited regularly as part of *Sculpture by the Sea, Cottesloe*, in South Australian exhibitions such as Brighton Jetty Sculptures, and currently has work included as part of 'Sculpture Encounters - Granite Island', Victor Harbor. With work also held in private collections, other public art commissions have included sculptural and large-scale mural pieces as part of local government initiatives to reimagine and reinvigorate public spaces.

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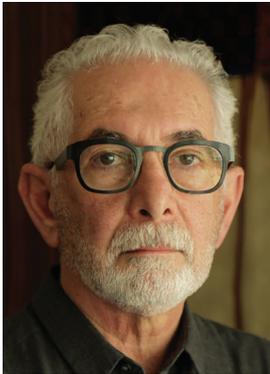


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Hossein Valamanesh (South Australia): Artist Exhibiting at ‘Sculpture Encounters – Granite Island’

Born in Iran, immigrated to Australia in 1973. He graduated from South Australian School of Art, 1977 and has exhibited in Australia and overseas including Germany, Poland, Japan, Finland, UK, Canada and Iran.

He has completed a number of major public art commissions and collaborations in both Australia and internationally spanning the last 30 years. He was awarded an Australia Council Fellowship 1998. His work is included in most major public Australian art collections. A major survey of his work was held at the Art Gallery of South Australia in mid 2001 and Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney, 2002. In 2014 he undertook a Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship in Washington DC. In 2011 Wakefield Press published a monograph of his work, titled Hossein Valamanesh, Out of nothingness, with essays by Mary Knights and Ian North.



Margaret Worth (South Australia): Artist Exhibiting at ‘Sculpture Encounters – Granite Island’

Margaret Worth studied physics, mathematics and music before embarking on studies at the South Australia School of Art. Her art became the means to combine her wonder in science and in spirituality – a visual language that could speak for both.

Worth completed advanced studies in New York NY with Lucy Lippard, Sol Le Witt and Richard Serra consolidating an enduring foundation in process, pure abstraction and materials. Following completion of a Master Degree in Fine Art at Columbia University NY, Worth committed to family and education as an art instructor for Sarah Lawrence College NY. In 1984 she returned to Australia and set up ‘WORTH CONSULTING: Art Design Community Planning’. The practice aims to make the experience of public places better through integrating art and culture. A range of successful public art commissions and community projects followed.

Worth has participated in invitational exhibitions including the McClelland National Sculpture Survey and Award, Helen Lemprière National Sculpture Award, Tokyo Biennale, Adelaide Biennial, Sydney Perspecta and the Lorne Sculpture Biennale and her work is held in the collections at the National Gallery of Australia, National Gallery Victoria, Art Gallery of South Australia, Art Gallery of NSW, Queensland Art Gallery GOMA, Cruthers Collection, WA as well as University collections in the USA and Australia.

Worth’s support for ‘Sculpture Encounters - Granite Island’, Victor Harbour, continues her commitment to creating a better experience for public places through art.

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David Handley AM: Founding Director of *Sculpture by the Sea*

In 1997 at the age of 31, David Handley founded *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi* which began as a one-day exhibition of 64 sculptures staffed by volunteers working from his lounge room. 25,000 people attended the first exhibition. Within three years the exhibition had grown to be the largest annual sculpture exhibition in the world featuring over 100 sculptures by artists from around the world.

In 1998, Handley was commissioned to produce a series of five *Sculpture by the Sea* exhibitions around Australia for the Sydney Olympic Arts Festival 'A Sea Change'. In 2005 Handley and his team launched the annual *Sculpture by the Sea, Cottesloe* in Perth on the west Australian coast which attracts 240,000 visitors to view 70 sculptures by artists from across the world. In 2009, the first international edition of *Sculpture by the Sea* was staged in the City of Aarhus, Denmark under the Patronage of TRH Crown Prince Frederik and Crown Princess Mary of Denmark. The Denmark exhibition was held every two years until 2015 attracting an estimated 400,000 visitors to each exhibition.

In 2003, Handley oversaw the establishment of *Sculpture by the Sea Incorporated* as a not for profit entity to manage the Australian *Sculpture by the Sea* exhibitions. He has served on a number of boards including as a Trustee of the Australian Museum (2002 – 2010) and the USA based International Sculpture Centre (2008 - 2011).

In 2016, David Handley received Member of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours.



Dr Lucina Ward: Curator of International Painting and Sculpture, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

Dr Lucina Ward is Curator of International Painting and Sculpture at the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, where her projects include: *Love & desire: Pre-Raphaelite masterpieces from Tate* (2018–19); *American Masters 1940–1980* (2018); *Versailles: Treasures from the Palace* (2016–17); *James Turrell: A retrospective* (2014–15); *Abstract Expressionism* (2012–13), *Masterpieces from Paris* (2009–10); *Soft sculpture* (2009); and *Turner to Monet* (2008).

Ward has a particular interest in modern and contemporary sculpture, and worked with Turrell on *Within without 2010*, a permanent skyspace for the NGA's sculpture garden. She also regularly publishes and lectures on many aspects of the collection.

Ward's doctorate was granted by the Australian National University, and she is also a graduate of the Canberra School of Art and the University of Canberra.

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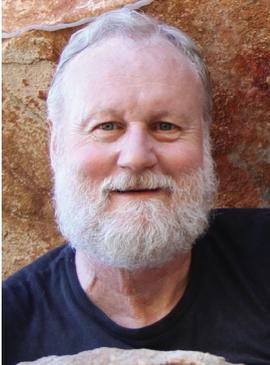


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Professor Paul S.C. Taçon: Chair in Rock Art Research and Professor of Anthropology and Archaeology at Griffith University, Queensland

Professor Paul S.C. Taçon FAHA FSA is an ARC Australian Laureate Fellow (2016-2021), Chair in Rock Art Research and Professor of Anthropology and Archaeology at Griffith University, Queensland, Australia. Prof Taçon also directs Griffith University's Place, Evolution and Rock Art Heritage Unit (PERAHU) and leads research themes in the Griffith Centre for Social and Cultural Research and Griffith's Research Centre of Human Evolution.

Prof Taçon has conducted archaeological and ethnographic fieldwork since 1980 and has over 90 months field experience in remote parts of Australia, Cambodia, Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, southern Africa, Thailand, the Philippines and the USA.

Prof Taçon co-edited *The Archaeology of Rock-art* with Dr Christopher Chippindale and has published over 280 academic and popular papers on rock art, material culture, colour, cultural evolution and identity. In 2015, he co-authored a book that outlines a new strategy for the conservation of world rock art and in 2016 and 2017 co-edited two major volumes on rock art.

In December 2016 Prof Taçon was awarded the top award at the annual Australian Archaeological Association conference, the Rhys Jones Medal for Outstanding Contribution to Australian Archaeology. He also received the 2016 Griffith University Vice-Chancellor's Research Excellence Award for Research Leadership.



Peter Boardman: Head Engineer, Gibbs Farm, New Zealand

Peter Boardman is a Senior Structural Engineer, with a reputation for innovation and delivering first-class structural engineering solutions. Over the past 40+ years Boardman has worked on projects in New Zealand, Australia, Nepal and around the Pacific. He is the head engineer for Gibbs Farm in New Zealand, one of the world's leading sculpture parks, and has worked with top sculptors from around the world on the engineering and installation of their works on the farm.

Boardman's key skills include problem solving, conceptual engineering and construction engineering and he has provided the engineering for several high-profile buildings in New Zealand, including Te Papa in Wellington and a number of buildings for the University of Auckland as part of its rebuild. He has also worked on two projects in Papua New Guinea - the Taurama Aquatics Centre and the Rita Flyn Netball Centre, completed for the 2015 Pacific Games. Boardman and his strong team won these projects over international stadium experts.

Boardman set up Structure Design in 1998 after spending over 20 years at Holmes Consulting Group.

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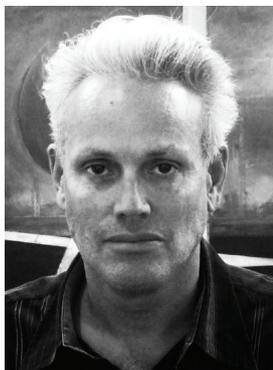
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Dr Michael Hill: Head of Art History, National Art School, Sydney

Dr Michael Hill is head of Art History at the National Art School in Sydney. His main focus of research has been Francesco Borromini's Baroque church of San Carlo alle Quattro Fontane in Rome. His work on Borromini led him to study Leo Steinberg's critique of modernist art criticism. With Peter Kohane, Dr Hill has written on the theory of decorum in classical architecture, focused on the way decoration contributes to the making of public space.

Outside of scholarship, Dr Hill is an artistic advisor to *Sculpture by the Sea* and has visited Gibbs Farm in New Zealand seven times.



Stephen Bradley: Manager of Transfield Art Collection

Stephen Bradley is a New Zealand-born artist, curator, writer and Corporate Affairs Manager. He moved to Sydney in 1983 and studied film at the School of Visual Arts. In 1988 he travelled to London where he worked as an artist, photographer, performer and director. In this time in London Bradley was a trustee of two arts charities: The Art House and Cor Blimey Arts, which led to his curatorial work, highlights being group exhibitions at the European parliaments of Brussels and Strasbourg.

Relocating to Sydney in 2000 Bradley joined Transfield Holdings as the company's Art Collection Manager, a role he continues. From 2005 to the present he has also been Transfield Holdings' Corporate Affairs Manager. In 2008, Transfield launched its Walsh Bay Sculpture Walk, which he continues to manage.

Bradley recently completed a five-year stint as a Director of Regional Arts NSW, has been a member of the Transfield Foundation's Advisory Committee. He was part of the curatorial panel for *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi 2017* and was a member of the judging panel for the *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi 2019* major award at Bondi.

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