

'Small, personal windows': Finalists revealed for \$25,000 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize

NTN [ntnews.com.au/news/nsw/small-personal-windows-finalists-revealed-for-25000-woollahra-small-sculpture-prize/news-story/9d1c26a42db22ce9126439dc7b3a90c6](https://www.9news.com.au/news/nsw/small-personal-windows-finalists-revealed-for-25000-woollahra-small-sculpture-prize/news-story/9d1c26a42db22ce9126439dc7b3a90c6)

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Small sculptures are set to make a big splash in the city's east as part of one of the country's richest art prizes, as dozens of finalists from across the world have been announced for the major award.



Woollahra Gallery, at Redleaf, has announced the finalists for the 2026 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize. Picture: Supplied

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The eastern suburbs' top sculpture prize and one of the nation's richest has announced its finalists, with the winners to receive a prize pool of \$29,000.

The internationally recognised Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize was established in 2001 and is presented by Woollahra Council through its art gallery at Redleaf. The winner of the major prize will receive \$25,000 and have their work acquired as part of council's collection.

This year's exhibition will include 49 finalist works selected from 724 local and international entries, including works from the US and Ireland.

Gallery director Sep Pourbozorgi said this year's finalists "reveal the remarkable breadth of contemporary sculptural practice, with works in bronze, paper, glass and ceramics".

"Some works explore history, industry and the expressive potential of materials themselves, while others emerge from failed experiments, successful prototypes and the pursuit of new artistic directions," he said.



Director of Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf, Sep Pourbozorgi, with works from last year's Small Sculpture Prize exhibition. Picture: John Appleyard

"The result is an exhibition that captures the richness, originality and innovation of contemporary sculpture."

The Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize has run for 25 years, and in 2026 for the first time, will include categories for primary school-aged kids. The children's categories are from ages five to eight, and from ages nine to 12 years, with a \$200 prize pool for each category and a \$100 viewer's choice award.



BJ Kim's sculpture 'do Geese see God?' is a finalist in the 2026 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize.
Picture: Supplied



'Unfolded Trees' by Melanie Cobham is also a finalist work. Picture: Supplied
Entries for the children's prize will open on September 21 and close October 13.

This year's judges for the major prize include Art Gallery of NSW assistant curator Emily Sullivan, philanthropist and arts leader Beau Neilson, and artist Tim Silver who took home the prize in 2018.

Ms Sullivan said judging the prize was "a pleasure and a privilege".

"These works offer small, personal windows into the things that enthrall and affect us — the natural world, people, and the uncanny," she said.



Art Gallery of NSW assistant curator of contemporary international art, Emily Sullivan, is a judge in the 2026 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize. Picture: Felicity Jenkins



Woollahra Mayor Sarah Dixon with winner of last year's Mayor's Choice award, 'Rack' by Alicia Cox.

Picture; John Appleyard

Additional prizes include a \$2000 Special Commendation and a \$1000 Viewer's Choice Award, with Woollahra Mayor Sarah Dixon set to choose the recipient of the \$1000 Mayor's Award.

Mayor Dixon said "the Prize has become Australia's pre-eminent award for small sculpture, and an internationally recognised showcase for creative excellence".



Mr Pourbozorgi with Mayor Dixon looking through the sculpture 'Life Cycle' by Belem Lett in last year's prize. Picture: John Appleyard



Tricia Singer's 2026 finalist sculpture 'Peacock'. Picture: Supplied

Winners will be announced on October 1, with finalists on display at Woollahra Gallery from October 2 to November 29.

The Wentworth Courier is a Gold Sponsor of the prize. Silver Sponsors of the prize include Crawford's Casting, D'Leanne Lewis, J. Farren Price, Catalina Rose Bay, Sandersons Rushcutters Bay, Benjamin Norris and Zart Art supplies.

Full list of finalists:

Anita Johnson, Annabel Lahz, Benjamin Jay Shand, BJ Kim, Billie Baker, Bryant Chitsey, Christian Atichian, Christopher Jewitt, Dean Stewart, Fiona J Schoer, Francheska Coenraads, Hamish Bassett, Harriet Schwarzrock, Jacob Davidson, Jesse Wakenshaw, Kat Shapiro Wood, Katarzyna Dudkiewicz, Katherine Castillo Alferez, Katherine Sankey, Kelly Fatseas, Kien Situ, Kieta Jackson, Liss Finney, Liz Bryan, Lois Basham, Lynda Draper, Madeleine Kelly, Mark Booth, Mark and Simi Elliott, Martin John Oldfield, Matthew de Moiser, Melanie Cobham, Monica Rani Rudhar, Nasim Nasr, Olivia Chin, Omi McCurdie, Robyn Campbell, Samantha Mackie, Sassy Park, Satu Bushell, Saxon Reynolds, Silke Raetze, Simon Chalmers, Thomas O'Hara, Tony Manning, Tony Tran, Tricia Singer, Valissa Butterworth, Wanita Lowe.

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