

Castaways Sculpture Awards 2009

Rockingham Foreshore
Saturday 2 - Sunday 10 May 2009

Non - Acquisitive Prizes for Recycled Sculpture



An invasion of cheeky African meerkats, a time machine light, a school of fish swimming above the sand, a wild and exotic bird chained to the Boardwalk, an enormous but inedible box of chocolates, a red beating pulse, a portrait made entirely of the base of aluminium cans, and a huge man with a solar-powered heart - eight days of inspiring and innovative recycled sculpture on display on the Rockingham Foreshore from 2 – 10 May in the Castaways Sculpture Awards.

The exhibition on Rockingham Foreshore includes both established and emerging artists who have created works from unlikely materials such as rubber tyres, copper wire, plastic lens from glasses, olive oil containers, fan belts and packaging materials, transforming the ordinary into the extraordinary. Included is layered mattresses stripped of fabric to form a box with silver air conditioning foil as ribbon; plastic garden pots cut into unusual and exotic flowers; cut and flattened aluminium cans sewn onto coloured canvas forming a school of fish; compressed company reports twisted and threaded onto a steel rod - "in a world of information overload, these twisted company documents have now been rendered silent," says artist Graham Hay.

Castaways Sculpture Awards are administered by the City of Rockingham and highlight the City's strong commitment to recycling and the visual arts. City of Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels said the Awards have several layers of significance to artists and the visiting public. "There are challenges for artists in using recycled materials, a free Forum, and daily guided tours to gain a better understanding of the works. Through an education program sponsored by BHP Billiton we hope to inspire children in their formative years to retain a strong message of the importance of recycling, and also an appreciation of visual art," said Mayor Sammels.

Alcoa has sponsored a major prize of \$5000 and second prize of \$3000 for works which must have an aluminium component. The City of Rockingham prize for recycled sculpture in any medium is valued at \$3000, and the International Power Mitsui prize for the most innovative sculpture is \$1500. As well as a People's Choice Award, one voter will win a Rockingham Shopping Centre voucher valued at \$500. All prizes are non-acquisitive, and most works in the exhibition are for sale. Guided tours of the exhibition operate at 2pm daily during the eight day exhibition.

Participating artists in Castaways 2009 include Ryan Cant, Richard Fry, Graham Hay, Richard Hammer, Don Walters, Joan Johnson, Susan Hoy (major winner Castaways 2008), Robin Yakinthou (People's Choice winner Castaways 2008), Len Zuks (People's Choice winner Sculpture by the Sea, Cottesloe 2009), and Sydney artist Kath Fries.

Judges for Castaways 2009 are Amy Barrett-Lennard, Director, Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, Alan Dodge AM, Art Advisor and former Director of the Art Gallery of WA, and artist Theo Koning.

For further information contact:

Lyn DiCiero, Curator on 9336 1861 or artchron@inet.net.au

Adrienne Conway, Arts Officer, City of Rockingham on 9528 0386 or aconway@rockingham.wa.gov.au



Detail, *Sphere of Influence*, aluminium, PVC blinds from an office block, solar-powered lights by Ruth Acton.

Castaways Forum

9.30am - 3.30pm Wednesday 6 May 2009

Gary Holland Community Centre 19 Kent St Rockingham



Castaways Sculpture Awards 2009

Forum: *Sculpture with a Conscience*

Wednesday 6 May

First Floor, Gary Holland Community Centre, 19 Kent St, Rockingham

FREE ADMISSION Light refreshments provided

9.30 – 10.30am GRAHAM HAY has developed an international reputation for his paper clay and compressed paper sculpture techniques. The compressed paper is an artificial hardwood, similar to jarrah in its durability and load bearing abilities. His largest work was a 4 tonne spiral in the foyer of the Canberra High Court. More recent works have appeared in *Sculpture by the Sea*, Cottesloe, the Southbound Festival, Albany Paperartzi and the Northcliffe Sculptural Walk. In this talk Graham will explain and illustrate his techniques – the ultimate in recycled art – inexpensive, sturdy and recycled. Preview Graham Hay's work at www.grahamhay.com.au

11am - 12 noon THE ROLE OF REUSING IN TODAY'S SOCIETY: REmidia Creative Reuse Centre is a not-for-profit organisation which collects and supplies reusable materials to the community for creative and educational projects. REmidia encourages a different perspective on objects which would otherwise end up as landfill. For an annual membership fee, REmidia provides materials to schools, child care services, families, community groups, artists and other individuals collected entirely from the scraps and discards of local industry. REmidia also provides educational workshops addressing issues of sustainability and participates in community events and festivals to promote an understanding of reuse in the community.

This presentation explores the history of reusing over the last 100 years and how different sections of society have engaged in this activity. It will look at where reusing sits in the recycling hierarchy today and why it is important to sustainability. Also covering the philosophy of Remidia and its origins in Reggio Emilia, Italy, REmidia explores the role of art in bringing value to objects and how aesthetics can be used to transform rubbish into a value resource.

1pm - 2pm MARYNES AVILA, MA (Art in Public Space) Distinction, RMIT, Melbourne Award-winning artist Marynes Avila had dedicated her life to the Visual and Performing Arts and Education. She is an artist who implements the use of multiples as 'data connectors' by investigating the uniqueness of each unit and its interrelationship with the group. Most of her recent and current projects include mass production recycled materials and organic materials collected on specific sites. Of her many public art commissions and exhibitions, in 2008 she created an installation at the Essendon Incinerator Arts Complex using pine needles from the surrounding pine trees to produce a work which explored the concept of immigration. Her work provides the viewer with a fertile ground for the rethinking and redefinition of the object and its social/cultural function.

Marynes is the winner of the 2008 Worrells Mercedes-Benz and Melbourne Weekly Magazine Award at the Toorak Village Festival of Sculpture, a finalist at the 2008 Yering Station Sculpture Show, the 2009 Artecycle Ephemeral Sculpture Prize at the Incinerator Arts Complex Melbourne, and the prestigious 2008 Arnold Bloch Leibler Sculpture Exhibition. She is also guest artist at the 2008/09 Sculpture Workshop Program at McClelland Gallery and Sculpture Park.

2.30pm - 3.30pm JON DENARO discovered research papers where scientists looked at biological construction when studying at the University of Hobart in the late 1980s. "They were looking at linear construction exponential growth stationary periods and deconstruction as being the ingredients for natural biological growth. My sculptural work is still working through that idea." *Bikelab* was an experiment in providing a deconstruction reconstruction process in communities in WA with ten artist teams. "I wanted to be scientific in exploring potential for Indigenous sculpture making and to highlight this aspect. *Bike Lab* was an explosive success wherever it was taken - I'd like to share some of those moments and talk about the underlying sculpture process."

Jon's exhibitions include *Sculpture by the Sea* (2005-09), *Symbiotica* at the University of WA, Melbourne Art Fair, Joondalup Invitation Exhibition, PICA, Gomboc Gallery and the Brisbane Power House. Public commissions include the City of Rockingham, Perth Airport, City of Melville Sculpture Walk and the East Perth Development Authority. He is represented in collections such as Artbank, ABC, Alcoa, Woodside and the Kerry Stokes Collection.

HOW TO REGISTER: Though free, those attending the Forum are asked to register by contacting Marion Duff on 9528 0394 or mduff@rockingham.wa.gov.au