

NIAGARA

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ROBERT BRIDGEWATER

Robert Bridgewater was born in Victoria in 1971. He obtained a Bachelor of Fine Art from Monash University in 1992 when he also won the National Gallery of Victoria Trustees Award. He went on to complete a Graduate Diploma of Fine Art at the Victorian College of the Arts in 1995, receiving the Post Graduate Encouragement Award the previous year. In 1995 he won the Kangaroo Sculpture Award, was a finalist in the Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award in 2001, 2003 (highly commended) and 2005, and also a finalist in the McClelland Sculpture Survey and Award in 2010.

Robert completed a series of commissioned works for the RACV Club premises in Healesville and Melbourne; the Grand Hyatt, Melbourne; Burwood Casino, Perth; the Park Hyatt, Sydney; and several private collections.

Robert lived and worked in London during an Australia Council Studio Residency in 2000, and was artist in residence at the Ernst Mach Foundation, France in 2003. He is currently based in Melbourne.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

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| 2020 | <i>Sculpture</i> , Niagara Galleries, Melbourne |
| 2019 | Sydney Contemporary, Carriageworks, Sydney |
| 2015 | <i>All homes are left so</i> , Niagara Galleries, Melbourne |
| 2007 | <i>Little Light of Mine</i> , Niagara Galleries, Melbourne |
| 2004 | Niagara Galleries, Melbourne |
| 2002 | Niagara Galleries, Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne |
| 2000 | Smyrnios Gallery Australia, Melbourne |
| 1998 | Smyrnios Gallery Australia, Melbourne |
| 1997 | Smyrnios Gallery Australia, Melbourne |
| 1996 | <i>Agricultural</i> , Temple Studio, Melbourne |

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

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| 2016 | <i>Blue Chip XVIII: The Collectors' Exhibition</i> , Niagara Galleries, Melbourne |
| 2014 | <i>Melbourne Art Fair</i> , Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne <i>Lorne Sculpture Biennale</i> , Lorne, Victoria |
| 2013 | <i>Small Sculpture Fair</i> , McClelland Sculpture Park and Gallery, Langwarrin, Victoria |
| 2012 | <i>Deakin University Contemporary Small Sculpture Award</i> , Deakin University Art Gallery, Melbourne <i>Fifth Palmer Sculpture Biennial</i> , Palmer, South Australia <i>A Public Art Perspective</i> , Backyard Gallery, Victoria <i>Hits and Memories</i> , Academy Gallery, Tasmania <i>Blue Chip XIV: The Collectors' Exhibition</i> , Niagara Galleries, Melbourne |
| 2011 | <i>Deakin University Contemporary Small Sculpture Award</i> , Deakin University Gallery, Melbourne <i>Auckland Art Fair</i> , Niagara Galleries, Viaduct Events Centre, New Zealand |
| 2010 | <i>McClelland Sculpture Survey and Award 2010 Finalists' Exhibition</i> , The McClelland Gallery and Sculpture Park, Victoria <i>Niagara Presents... Can't See the Wood for the Trees</i> , Niagara Galleries, Melbourne <i>Blue Chip XII: The Collectors' Exhibition</i> , Niagara Galleries, Melbourne |
| 2009 | <i>Shelter: On Kindness</i> , Melbourne Festival exhibition, RMIT Gallery, Melbourne |

- 2009 *Auckland Art Fair*, New Zealand
- 2008 *Melbourne Art Fair*, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
- 2007 *10: 1997–2007*, Yarra Sculpture Gallery, Melbourne
Urban Arboreal: The Tree in the Grid, City Gallery, Melbourne Town Hall, Melbourne
- 2006 *If you were to collect... Elements of abstraction*, Deloitte Corporate Offices, Melbourne
Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
- 2005 *Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize*, Woollahra Municipal Council, Sydney
Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award, Werribee Park, Victoria
- 2004 *Gasworks Artists Exhibition*, Gasworks Arts Park, Melbourne
- 2003 *Boogie, Jive & Bop*, Academy Gallery, University of Tasmania, Launceston
Terrain, fortyfivedownstairs, Melbourne
Against the Grain, McClelland Gallery and Sculpture Park, Victoria
Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award, Werribee Park, Victoria
- 2002 *Central Goldfields Art Prize*, Central Goldfields Art Gallery, Maryborough, Victoria
- 2001 *wall, floor, ceiling*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award, Werribee Park, Victoria
Grounds for Sculpture, McClelland Gallery, Victoria
Fundere Art Prize, Yarra Sculpture Gallery, Melbourne
Nillumbik Art Prize, Montsalvat Gallery, Melbourne
Old Landscape: New Garden – Sculpture at Seawinds, Arthurs Seat, Victoria
- 2000 *Deacons Graham & James Award 2000*, Ian Potter Museum of Art, Melbourne
Sculpture 2000, Access Art Gallery, Sydney
- 1999 *Moët et Chandon Touring Exhibition*, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide; Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; RMIT Gallery, Melbourne
Probe, Melbourne Festival, Melbourne
Spacetime – Monash Alumni, Monash University Faculty Gallery, Melbourne
Keith and Elisabeth Murdoch Travelling Fellowship, Victorian College of the Arts Gallery, Melbourne
City of Hobart Art Prize, Carnegie Gallery, Hobart
- 1998 *Gasworks Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition*, Gasworks Park, Melbourne
Resourceful, An Australian Ethos, Ararat Gallery, Victoria
Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Smyrnios Gallery, Melbourne
Concurrence or Contrast – Sculpture in the Dandenong Ranges Gardens, Victoria
Long Distance, Nicholson Street Gallery, Victoria; Switchback Gallery, Melbourne
- 1997 *Moët et Chandon Touring Exhibition*, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth; Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
Enough Space, Yarra Sculpture Space, Melbourne
Keith and Elisabeth Murdoch Travelling Fellowship, Victorian College of the Arts Gallery, Melbourne
Deacons Graham & James/Arts 21 Award Exhibition, University of Melbourne Gallery, Melbourne
Roundness, Stop 22 Gallery, Melbourne
- 1996 *House of Windsor Studio Group Exhibition*, QDOS Contemporary Art Gallery, Victoria
Third Anniversary Show, Ether Ohnetitel Gallery, Melbourne
The National Sculpture Trail, Victoria University Footscray Campus and Footscray Park, Melbourne
Gasworks Seventh Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition, Gasworks Park, Melbourne
Sculpture 3, Austin and Repatriation Medical Centre, Melbourne
- 1995 *Kangaroo Sculpture Awards Exhibition*, Kangaroo Ground, Victoria
Sculpture at Heidelberg, Austin and Repatriation Medical Centre, Melbourne

- 1995 *Excursion – Three Person Show*, Linden Arts Centre, Melbourne
Continuum and Contrast, McClelland Gallery, Melbourne
Gasworks Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition, Gasworks Park, Melbourne
Victorian College of the Arts Post Graduate Exhibition, Victorian College of the Arts Gallery, Melbourne
- 1994 *Victorian College of the Arts Sculpture at the Athenaeum Theatre*, Melbourne
Victorian Student Sculpture Survey, University of Ballarat, Victoria
Gasworks Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition, Gasworks Park, Melbourne
Meridian Gallery Christmas Group Show, Meridian Gallery, Melbourne
- 1993 *Artworkz 5*, Gallery 101, Melbourne
- 1992 *Snare*, Monash Studios, Melbourne
Monash Summer Salon, Luba Bilu Gallery, Melbourne
- 1991 *First National Art and Design Students Exhibition*, Exhibition Building, Melbourne
Sub-6, Malvern City Council, Melbourne

AWARDS

- 2011 *Deakin University Contemporary small Sculpture Awards*, Victoria (finalist)
- 2010 *McClelland Sculpture Survey and Awards*, Victoria (finalist)
- 2005 *Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award*, Victoria (finalist)
- 2003 *Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award*, Victoria (finalist/highly commended)
 Artist in Residence, Ernst Mach Foundation, France
- 2001 *Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award*, Victoria (finalist)
- 2000 Australian Council Studio Residency, London
- 1995 Kangaroo Sculpture Award, Victoria (winner)

COLLECTIONS

Artbank, Sydney
 Central Goldfields Shire, Victoria
 Ernst Mach Foundation. Pontiacq, France
 Grand Hyatt, Melbourne
 Monash University, Melbourne
 Nhill Secondary College, Victoria
 Parks Victoria, Herring Island Environmental Sculpture Park, Melbourne
 RACV Club, Victoria
 Tabcorp, Melbourne
 Victoria University, Melbourne
 Park Hyatt, Sydney
 Private collections

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

'Robert Bridgewater', *Reflektor: Art, Objects, Ideas & People*, no. 3, January 2020, pp. 48-9

Blue Chip XVIII: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2016

All homes are left so, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2015

Blue Chip XIV: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2012

'Herring Island Environmental Sculpture Park', *Sculpture and the Enemies*, vol. 2, no. 1, 2010

Blue Chip XII: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2010

Christine Nicholls, 'An illuminated art', *World Sculpture News*, vol. 13, no. 4, autumn 2007

Rebecca Lancashire, 'Homage to hard labour', *The Age*, 5 April 2003

Molly O'Brien, 'Great ideas, great shapes', *The Age*, 5 March 2003

Robert Nelson, 'Mixing perception with space', *The Age*, 26 March 2003

Jeremy Eccles, 'Off the wall', *Australian Art Collector*, no. 24, April 2003

Stephen Crafti, *Request. Response. Reaction: Designers of Australia and New Zealand*, The Images Publishing Group, Victoria, 2002

Martina Copley, 'The architecture of skin', *Robert Bridgewater*, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2002

Craig Abraham (illus.), 'Carving a place', *The Age*, 7 March 2001

Bala Starr, *Deacons Graham & James Award 2000*, exhibition catalogue, Ian Potter Museum of Art, Melbourne, 2000

Peter Timms, 'Sizing up for better', *The Age*, 28 June 2000

Scott Brown, *Moët et Chandon 1999 Touring Exhibition*, exhibition catalogue, Moët & Chandon Australian Art Foundation, Victoria, 1999

Robert Nelson, *Spacetime – Monash Alumni Exhibition*, exhibition catalogue, Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne, 1999

Roger Taylor, 'A forest of poems', *World Sculpture News*, vol. 5, no. 3, summer 1999

Anne Epstein (ed.), *Australian Family – Images & Essays*, Hyland House, Melbourne, 1998

Penny Webb, 'No, thanks, just touching', *The Age*, 27 November 1998

Louise Bellamy, 'A fair to remember', *The Age*, 19 October 1998

Anna Clabburn, 'Gardens and galleries', *The Age*, 25 March 1998

Anna Clabburn, *Moët et Chandon 1997 Touring Exhibition*, exhibition catalogue, Moët & Chandon Australian Art Foundation, Victoria, 1997

Anna Clabburn, 'Of things glass and wood', *Herald Sun*, 30 July 1997

Rachel Kent, *Deacons Graham & James Award 1997*, exhibition catalogue, Ian Potter Museum of Art, Melbourne, 1997

Robert Nelson, 'Deacons Award: About face', *The Age*, 9 July 1997

Robert Nelson, 'The year in review', *The Age*, 1 January 1997

Robert Rooney, 'Robert Rooney on art', *The Australian*, 4 October 1996

Robert Nelson, 'Apart from the art, a good show', *The Age*, 25 September 1996

Robert Nelson, 'Two more than junk junkies', *The Age*, 3 May 1995

Ken Scarlett, 'A democratic showcase', *Australian Art Monthly*, vol. 75, November 1994

Sonia Harford, 'Fringe art maybe but not on the edge', *The Age*, 13 October 1994

'Bent and Twisted' (illus.), *Herald Sun*, 12 October 1994

Christopher Heathcote, 'A work of art or just an object?', *The Age*, 24 September 1993