

## MEDIA RELEASE

July 2023

### Celebrate art, heritage, and cultural diversity at HIDDEN Rookwood Sculptures 2023

Metropolitan Memorial Parks is pleased to announce the return of HIDDEN Rookwood Sculptures 2023 at Australia's largest cemetery, Rookwood General Cemetery. Celebrating its 13th anniversary, the annual HIDDEN event blends the richness of heritage, tradition, and multicultural narratives of Rookwood Cemetery with the creative expressions of diverse artists. The 2023 exhibition will be open from 21 October to 19 November, and will feature an array of contemporary and traditional art forms against the peaceful backdrop of the historic cemetery.

Dr Kath Fries, curator, HIDDEN 2023, said, "Rookwood Cemetery is more than a final resting place; it's a sacred space rich in cultural heritage and traditions.

The annual HIDDEN Rookwood Sculptures event lets us invite the community into this unique setting, and foster the contemplation, remembrance, and appreciation of art, culture, and life. Whether you are drawn to the historical significance, personal stories, or the evocative sense of place of Rookwood Cemetery, HIDDEN 2023 promises to be an engaging and reflective event."

This year's exhibition is also proud to include the Stonemasons and Schools categories, augmenting the long-standing Sculptures section. These additional categories will highlight creativity across generations, from school children and teenagers to apprentices and professional artists. The Stonemasons category brings traditional hand-carving skills to the fore, while the Schools category will provide a platform for budding young artists.

The main Sculptures category will feature 30 works of art, from vibrant, celebratory pieces to contemplative, thought-provoking installations. The sculptures aim to explore various HIDDEN themes such as history, culture, remembrance, diversity, love, loss, mourning, spirituality, relationships, memory, community, life cycles, and the passage of time.

Entry to HIDDEN Rookwood Sculptures 2023 is free and visitors can explore the exhibition daily from sunrise to sunset. A complimentary informative audio tour and map are available, with a full-colour printed catalogue for sale to support restoration projects undertaken by the Friends of Rookwood. The exhibition experience is enhanced with curator tours, artist talks, and a public photography competition.

Leading up to the exhibition, Metropolitan Memorial Parks will host community workshops at the Granville Centre, Cumberland City Council, from July to September. A HIDDEN Satellite Exhibition will also open at the McGlade Gallery, ACU Strathfield on 14 October, one week before the main event at Rookwood Cemetery.



*Cybele Cox, The Red Shoes Vanitas, HIDDEN 2022 Winner*

HIDDEN is honoured to continue its partnerships with Dharug Strategic Management Group, Cumberland City Council, and the Friends of Rookwood.

HIDDEN Rookwood Sculptures will run from 21 October to 19 November 2023.

For further information on HIDDEN, and to find out more about the activities included in the public program, visit [www.hiddeninrookwood.com.au](http://www.hiddeninrookwood.com.au) or call 02 8575 8100.

### **HIDDEN Rookwood Sculptures 2023 artists**

#### **HIDDEN Sculptures**

Kealey Bacic, Glenn Barkley, Lachlan Bell, Corey Black, Caitlin Bowe, Celine Cheung, Cole Cochran, Harry Copas, Crackpot Studios (Caroline Wright, Mandie Robertson, Sarah Robertson, Bridget Willis), Lisa Hölzl, Kumiko Delaney, Szymon Dorabialski, Entanglement (Belinda Piggott, Dinah Taprell, Jane Lush), Stevie Fieldsend, Emily Greenwood, Sylvia Griffin, Hyun Hee Lee, Virginia Keft, Soyoun Kim, Benita Laylim, Karlina Mitchell and Lee Mitchell, Clare Nicholson, Nicole O'Regan, Leyla Oz, NC Qin, Taryn Raffan, Monica Rani Rudhar, Jayanto Tan, Jane Theau, Dianne Turner.

#### **HIDDEN Schools**

Amity College, Ashfield Public School, Barker College, Cabramatta High School, Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School.

#### **HIDDEN Stonemasons**

Dylan Brooks, Matthew Johnson, Sach Killam, Daniel Kilminster, Luke McDermott, Harold McLean, Matt McLennan, Josh Tilden, Daniel Tranter-Santoso.

#### **About Metropolitan Memorial Parks**

Rookwood General Cemetery is now part of Metropolitan Memorial Parks, which was established to unite the Northern Cemeteries, Rookwood General Cemetery and Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries NSW. Metropolitan Memorial Parks oversees 1,000 acres of Crown Land cemeteries and is responsible for the management and longevity of Rookwood Cemetery.

Rookwood offers over 400 unique interment grounds, historic and modern memorial areas, culturally specific gardens, three beautiful chapels, and a state-of-the-art function centre. To further meet the needs of families, services are customised to respect different religious and cultural beliefs.

Rookwood is also one of the largest green spaces in the growing city of Sydney, used and valued by surrounding multifaith communities. HIDDEN, along with events such as tours, workshops, and open days, provide unique opportunities for the community to explore the historic site.

#### **Media enquiries**

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