

MEDIA RELEASE

October 2023

Winner of HIDDEN 2023 Rookwood Sculptures announced

HIDDEN Rookwood Sculptures 2023 has awarded Celine Cheung the winner of the prestigious \$10,000 Rookwood Sculpture Award for her evocative piece, *忘川 (River of Oblivion)*. The announcement was made at the official unveiling of the exhibition on Saturday 21 October.

忘川 (River of Oblivion) is a poignant artwork that delves into the themes of ritual, family, and culture, set against the rich backdrop of Rookwood Cemetery.

Dr Kath Fries, curator of HIDDEN 2023, said, “Celine Cheung’s thought-provoking piece, *River of Oblivion (忘川)*, truly captivated the judging panel. Her introspective musings on ritual, family, and culture stood out. The installation of this work in the restored Grave Diggers Hut, provides a quiet moment to observe Cheung’s 99 fluid sigils. Inspired by Buddhist auspicious symbols, drifting on white chiffon, her work is reminiscent of souls transitioning to the afterlife in a mystical river.”

The judges were impressed with the quality and thoughtfulness of all the works in the exhibition. Specifically, they noted the way that the artists engage with sensitive and important issues, as well as the unique multi-cultural setting of Rookwood Cemetery.

HIDDEN Rookwood Sculptures 2023 serves as a platform for artists to engage with and reflect upon personal, emotional, and significant themes within one of the most historic areas of Rookwood Cemetery. This year’s exhibition has seen a diverse range of works from vibrant installations to contemplative sculptures. Numerous activities, tours and events are scheduled as part of the HIDDEN public program, enhancing the visitors' experience.

HIDDEN Rookwood Sculptures thanks its partners and sponsors, with special mentions to Dharug Strategic Management Group, Cumberland City Council, the Friends of Rookwood Cunneen Signs, Farm City, Aarons Asphalt Services, Fernades Monuments and Building Services, Joeian Transport, and Triaxial Consulting, for their unwavering support.

HIDDEN Rookwood Sculpture - 2023 winners list

Rookwood Sculpture Award \$10,000

[Celine Cheung, *忘川 \(River of Oblivion\)*](#)

Muru Award \$2,000

[Virginia Keft, *The Colony*](#)

Beautiful Farewells Funeral Director Award \$1,000

[Lachlan Bell, *Sinillled silmadele \(Blue Flowers For Eyes\)*](#)

Nerine Martini Memorial Award \$1,000

[Karlina and Lee Mitchell, *Moce*](#)

Emerging Artist Award \$1,000

[Kumiko Delaney, *The Unwind in Nishitokorozawa*](#)

Western Sydney Artist Award \$1,000

[Leyla Oz, *Kefen - Nothing but a few pieces of cloth*](#)

HIDDEN Rookwood Schools - 2023 winners list

Rookwood Schools Award \$1,000

[Ashfield Public School, *Intersections*](#)

HIDDEN Rookwood Stonemasons – 2023 winners list

Rookwood Stonemasons Award \$1,000

[Sach Killam, *Gothic Window*](#)

Highly Commended, Rookwood Stonemasons Award

[Daniel Kilminster, *Winged Lion*](#)

30-Year Anniversary Stonemasons Apprentice Award \$300

[Daniel Tranter-Santoso, *Bare Gothic*](#)

HIDDEN Rookwood Sculptures 2023 runs from 21 October to 19 November. For more details on HIDDEN and additional activities in the public program, visit www.hiddeninrookwood.com.au or call 02 8575 8100.

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. Services are customised to respect different religious and cultural beliefs to further meet the needs of families.

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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