



2020 PRE-SELECTION PANELLISTS | MAIN AWARDS



ABDUL-RAHMAN ABDULLAH

Abdul-Rahman Abdullah is an Australian artist whose practice explores the different ways that memory can inhabit and emerge from familial spaces. Drawing on the narrative capacity of animal archetypes, crafted objects and the human presence, Abdul-Rahman aims to articulate physical dialogues between the natural world, identity and the agency of culture. Working primarily in sculpture and installation, his work has been described as magic realism, creating poetic interventions with the built environment.

Living and working in rural Western Australia, he provides unique perspectives across intersecting communities, foregrounding shared understandings of individual identity and new mythologies in a cross-cultural context.



RACHEL CIESLA

Rachel Ciesla is a curator based between Boorloo/Perth and Birraranga/Melbourne. Her practice leverages site-orientated and socially engaged approaches, to address questions of memory, place and identity within contemporary art.

Rachel is currently the Associate Curator for Projects at AGWA. Previously, she was the Producer for Events & Education at PHOTO 2020, a major new international festival of photography for Melbourne and Regional Victoria. Prior to this she held positions at Anna Schwartz Gallery, Melbourne Art Fair, Artsource, Paper Mountain and the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts. In 2020, she co-founded Heart of Hearts, an independent publishing house for contemporary art and literature, with writer and artist Jaxon Waterhouse. Rachel holds a Master of Art Curatorship at the University of Melbourne and a Bachelor of Art History from the University of Western Australia.



ALAN R DODGE AM

Alan R Dodge AM began his career at the Portland Museum of Art in Portland, Maine (USA), later moving to the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. He moved to Australia in 1974 and joined the fledgling Australian National Gallery (now National Gallery of Australia) where he stayed for 21 years. Alan was subsequently appointed Director of the Art Gallery of Western Australia (1997 – 2007).

In May 2011 Alan was honoured as WA Citizen of the Year for his work in culture and the arts.

Photo credit | Nik Babic

The Lester Prize



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GEMMA WESTON

Gemma Weston is Visual Arts Program Associate for the Perth Festival.

From 2013 - 2019 she was Curator of the Cruthers Collection of Women's Art at Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery. She is a regularly published writer on contemporary art, recently contributing essays to Artlink, Art Monthly and to Monash University Museum of Arts monograph on the work of Agatha Gothe-Snape, *The Outcome is Certain*. She is also a member of the editorial committee for Semaphore, a weekly newsletter on Western Australian art.



LAETITIA WILSON

Laetitia Wilson is currently Exhibitions Manager for the Janet Holmes à Court Gallery where she curates exhibitions at Vasse Felix in Margaret River and Holmes à Court Gallery at No.10 in West Perth. Laetitia has previously held curatorial positions at the University of Western Australia and worked independently as a curatorial consultant and curator on exhibitions at Moana Art Space, the Perth Museum, Success Art Space, the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery and the Perth Institute for Contemporary Art. She has also worked as a freelance arts writer for local and national arts publications, including working as Art Critic for the West Australian Newspaper from 2015-18. Earlier in her career Laetitia earned her doctorate in contemporary media art theory at the University of Western Australia and lectured within Art History at the School of Design from 2004-2016.

The
Lester
Prize



2020 JUDGES | MAIN AWARDS



DR CLARISSA BALL

Dr Clarissa Ball is an art historian with particular interests in late nineteenth and twentieth century art and photography.

Clarissa is currently the Head of Department of Fine Arts and History of Art at the University of Western Australia and is also the Director of the UWA Institute of Advanced Studies. She previously held the positions of Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Fine Arts at UWA and for many years was the Chief Examiner for TEE Art.

In 2019, Clarissa was appointed to the Board of the Art Gallery of Western Australia.



CHRIS MALCOLM

Chris Malcolm has worked with some of the most influential contemporary artists from around the world, curating and designing exhibitions over the last 25 years. Moving from a career as a practising artist, represented in the collections of the Art Gallery of Western Australia and the City of Fremantle, he commenced working with Curtin University's Art Collection in 1989. He was involved in the development of the John Curtin Gallery which opened at Curtin University in 1998 as Australia's largest University Art Museum and following a decade as its Curator and Curatorial Manager, has been Director since 2009. Malcolm has curated over 15 major international exhibitions for the Perth Festival and was a Founding Curator of BEAP the Biennale of Electronic Arts Perth. He has received the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in 2002 and 2019 and has developed many exhibitions in collaboration with leading researchers across a range of disciplines from nanotechnology to radio astronomy. As Director, over the last decade he has overseen the convergence of the John Curtin Gallery's collection development with its exhibition programming to focus on issues of diversity, equity and social justice.



IAN STRANGE

Ian Strange is a multidisciplinary artist whose work explores architecture, space and the home. His practice includes multifaceted collaborative community-based projects, architectural interventions and exhibitions. Strange is best known for his ongoing series of suburban architectural interventions, film and photographic works subverting the archetypal domestic home. He was recently appointed as Guest Artistic Director of the Art Gallery WA.

The Lester Prize