

Sculpture a true folly

BENDIGO Art Gallery installed a new outdoor sculpture in the tree court facing View Street yesterday.

Folly by Sebastian Di Mauro was recently purchased by the gallery and is covered entirely in artificial grass.

Designed purely for decoration, a folly was often included in 18th century ornamental garden designs for visual and aesthetic pleasure.

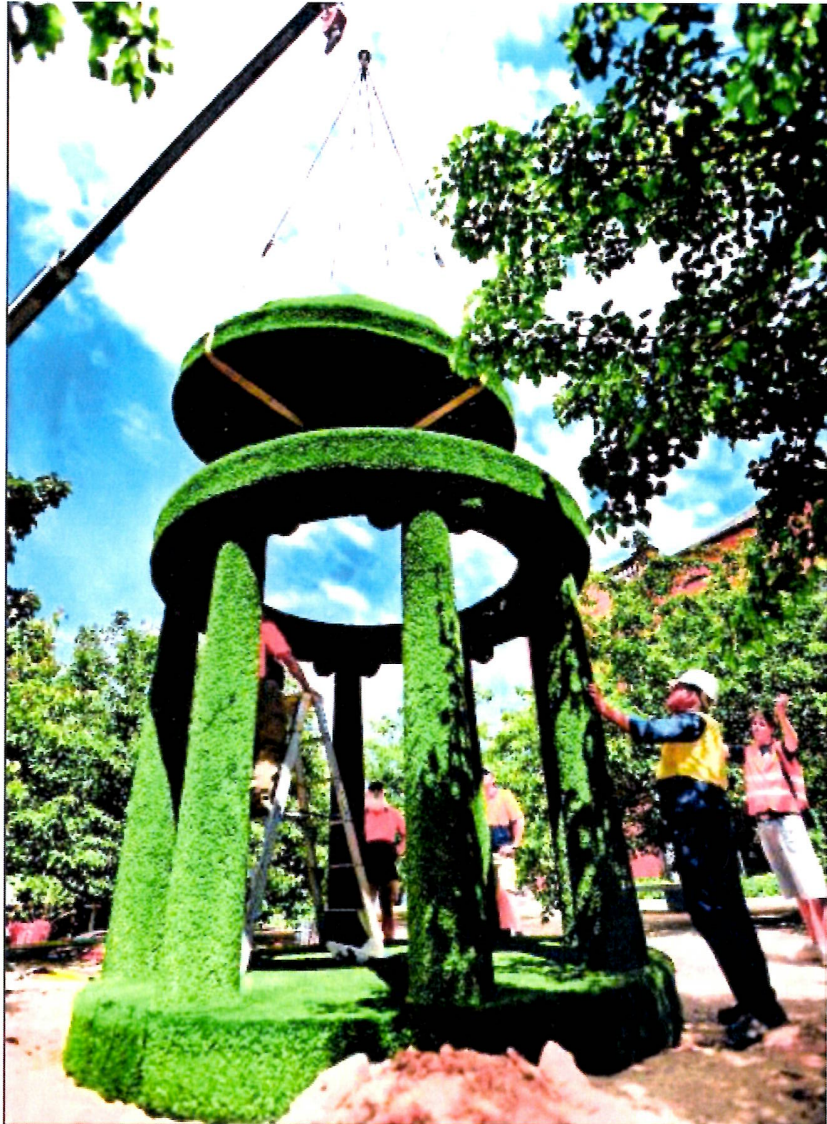
Sebastian Di Mauro, a senior lecturer at the Queensland College of Art, Griffith University, has held more than 35 solo exhibitions and his work has been exhibited in Australia, Europe and Asia.

His work encompasses a range of art forms including sculpture, installation, painting, and artist books using materials as diverse as pot scourers, carpet underlay and astro turf.

And his artwork has been selected for a number of major sculpture awards including: National Sculpture Prize and Exhibition, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra 2001; the Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award and Exhibition, Victoria 2003 and 2005; and The McClelland Survey and Award 2003, McClelland Gallery, Langwarrin, Victoria.

Di Mauro said *Folly* critiqued colonisation and its continued influence on contemporary Australian life.

"Colonisers replicate aspects from the mother country in their newly discovered Arcadia, a yearning to recreate the known into the unknown. This was no exception for the British who colonised Australia," he said.



ON VIEW: *Folly* at the Bendigo Art Gallery. Picture: ALEX ELLINGHAUSEN