The Helen Lempriere
National Sculpture Award
at Werribee Park 2008

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## 2008 Catalogue of Finalists

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Note to the reader
The capitalisation of titles of works in this catalogue reflects, wherever possible, the preferences of the individual artists.

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*Marketing and publicity*
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*Design and art direction*
3 Deep Design
*Award Coordinator*
Marita Rosenberg
*Photography*
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*Printing*
Bambra Press

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## Preface

I am delighted to welcome you to the 2008 Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award.

This eighth Lempriere Award is, once again, an exemplary demonstration of philanthropy, business, the public sector and Australian artists successfully joining forces to support and foster the arts.

Again this year, it is clear that the artists' journey and the development of their works have been integral in creating the rich visual diversity of the exhibition; that comes to life in the majestic grounds of Werribee Park.

To this end, I congratulate and warmly thank all 25 contributing artists, the enthusiastic judging panel consisting of Alan Dodge, Richard Goodwin and Elena Taylor and our invaluable business partners including Parks Victoria, Perpetual Limited, Wyndham City Council, Sofitel Mansion & Spa, Shadowfax Wines, JK Fasham, 3 Deep Design and Bambra Press for once again combining to create an important and stunning visual arts event for the enjoyment of tens of thousands of visitors.

Anne Robertson
Award Manager

## Welcome

The Lempriere, as it is fondly known, is one of the premier fixtures on the national visual arts calendar – an event widely perceived as having contributed to a resurgence of interest in the medium of sculpture in Australia.

None of this would have happened but for the far-sighted vision and generosity of Keith Wood, whose bequest honouring his wife, Helen Lempriere, provides the funding for the Award. From the beginning, the development of the Award to its current status as one of the finest art prizes in this country has also been inspired by the energy and commitment of Award Manager, Anne Robertson, the strong partnership between the Award and Parks Victoria's Mansion at Werribee Park that provides a unique setting for the presentation of the short-listed sculptures within the Mansion's Guilfoyle-designed gardens. Two of our other sponsors – the award-winning Sofitel Mansion & Spa and Shadowfax Wines provide facilities and a backdrop for the exhibition that are universally acclaimed by art critics and the visiting public.

The Award selection and the three-month exhibition of the shortlisted works are supported by a distinguished three-member judging panel and by a team of profession who commit their talent to this prestigious event.

I congratulate all who have contributed to the Lempri in 2008, and thank them for giving us all the chance to view, in the delightful open-air setting of Werribee Park sculpture by so many outstanding artists.

David Deverall
Managing Director
and Chief Executive Officer
Perpetual Limited

Helen Lempriere (1907–1991) was a leading Australian painter, who was most prolific between the 1930s and the 1970s. Lempriere was born into a wealthy and cultivated Melbourne family and was related both to the Tasmanian portraitist Thomas Lempriere and to Dame Nellie Melba. When Lempriere decided on art as a career, she elected to follow the precepts of the antimodernist school of dark tonal painting inspired by Max Meldrum (1875–1955). She studied initially with Archibald (A. D.) Colquhoun and in 1930 with Justus Jorgensen, subsequently playing an active role in the building of the first stage of Jorgensen's artists' colony, Montsalvat with which she was closely associated for ten years. During that period, apart from painting, she made a number of sculptures, including a female torso that was to be located in a fountain, a gargoyle, and two stone cherubs on the Montsalvat Great Hall. Lempriere also made prints (a number of which have been acquired by the National Gallery of Australia), painted lively watercolours, and made many pencil sketches of birds and animals.

Lempriere painted her first significant tonal picture in 1935. By 1938, however, when she executed *plein air* landscapes in the drought-stricken region of Yea, her palette was brighter, her style more impressionistic. A July 1940 painting of the family house and garden at Lilydale revealed the artist's continuing preference for strong, bright colours and a more developed interest in the fall of light on the subject. Lempriere was by now deeply attracted to impressionism for *plein air* studies, although she continued to paint tonal portraits.

On 15 June 1945 Lempriere married Keith Wood, moving with him to Sydney in 1946 after his discharge from the army. The artist's work was by this time confident and distinctive. A 1945 self-portrait, while exhibiting characteristically 'Meldrumite' dark tonalities, was also charged with a striking realism. Over the next forty years Lempriere's paintings and works on paper were acquired not only by the National Gallery of Australia, but also by the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Queensland Art Gallery and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, not to mention many private collectors in England, France, the Netherlands, Germany and Australia. Indeed, Lempriere is one of the few Australian painters to establish an international reputation in the 1950s and 1960s. Even so, the relatively limited acceptance of women artists in this country in the years following World War II saw her paintings rarely exhibited in Australia during this period, though she mounted more than twenty solo exhibitions in Europe, England and the United States.

Lempriere produced a considerable body of paintings during the extended periods she spent overseas. Many of these pictures addressed issues of Australian national identity, through references to Aboriginal themes and narratives. Lempriere was particularly interested in the relationships between the protagonists in these narratives and the land. The unsigned preface to the catalogue for a 1963 exhibition of Lempriere's work, at Galerie Furstenberg, Paris, reads: 'It is most important to note that she does not attempt to illustrate [Aboriginal] cults or legends ... She seeks to emphasise their mystic qualities and to translate them into [European] visual experiences'.

In 1966, after many years of travel and working abroad, Lempriere and Keith Wood settled permanently in Sydney. Lempriere continued to paint and exhibit, in 1976 mounting at David Jones's Art Gallery an extensive exhibition of energetic and intensely coloured marine abstractions, their subject matter drawn from Heron and Green Islands on the Great Barrier Reef.

After several years of serious illness, Helen Lempriere died on 25 November 1991. The Helen Lempriere Bequest, established five years later from the estate of Keith Wood, has made possible The Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award, dedicated to the advancement of Australian sculptors.

Source: Prof. Joan Kerr

## The Bequest

Perpetual Limited is the trustee of the Helen Lempriere Bequest, which presents The Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award. The Award was developed to realise the charitable aspirations of Keith Wood and Helen Lempriere.

Keith Wood was keen to make a significant philanthropic contribution to the arts, and one that would endure long after he died. In the last years of his life he conferred with many artists about how his intended gift might best assist the growth and development of artists' talents. He discovered that, although there was a great deal of philanthropic support for painters, there was very little support for artists working in the field of arts and crafts. He therefore stipulated in his will that an art prize honouring the memory of Helen Lempriere should be established to support artists working in three-dimensional art forms.

At the discretion of Perpetual Limited, a program to achieve the purpose of the will was developed. It was decided that the creation of The Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award would honour the philanthropic aspirations of Keith Wood and Helen Lempriere, while creating new opportunities for artistic excellence in Australian sculpture.

## The Award

*The Lempriere Award*

The Lempriere Award presents the winning artist with $80,000 cash and a $35,000 development package.

The package component is intended to assist the winning artist with negotiating business and commercial life and includes:

- 3 Deep Design: design services to assist with creating a folio of pages (print or electronic) that professionally represents his or her work for promotional purposes. (Value $10,000)
- Bundanon residency: 4 week "Artist in Residence" placement at Bundanon, Arthur and Yvonne Boyd's artistic centre in NSW. Bundanon offers the artist the opportunity to develop their own work, interact with other artists and experience an artistic community. (Value $5,000)
- On behalf of the winning artist, Perpetual Private Clients will donate a $20,000 gift fund and future income distributions to the Perpetual Foundation, for a charitable organisation of the winner's choice. Through its gift funds, the Perpetual Foundation supports Australian charities in perpetuity.

The winning work becomes a part of the Lempriere Collection and is permanently sited in the Werribee Park Sculpture Walk.

*Wyndham City Council Acquisitive Award*

The $35,000 Wyndham City Council Acquisitive Award is presented to the artist whose work the Council considers an appropriate addition to its public art collection in the City of Wyndham, subject to suitability.

*Highly Commended and Encouragement Awards*

Three Highly Commended prizes of $3,000 each are also awarded as well as a $1,000 Encouragement Award nominated by the judges.

*Popular Choice Award*

The $5,000 Popular Choice Award is presented to the artist whose sculpture most captures the imagination of the voting public during the exhibition. The winner of the Popular Choice Award will be announced at the conclusion of the exhibition.

The vision of the judging panel is paramount in the selection of the finalists for the Award. The judges for the 2008 Award are:

## Judges

*Alan Dodge*
*Former Director, Art Gallery of Western Australia*

Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire USA 1988; BA (High Distinction), Fine Arts, University of Maine, Orono, Maine, USA 1969

Alan is the Director of the Art Gallery of Western Australia. He is currently Chairman of the Council of Australian Art Museum Directors. He also sits on a number of boards including the National Portrait Gallery, The Institute of Advanced Studies at the University of Western Australia and the Collections Council of Australia, Ltd.

Alan has 37 years experience in the visual arts. He has also been involved in communities through membership in boards including the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts (1997-2004) and the Perth Convention Bureau (Chairman 2003-2005), Visions of Australia Committee from 1998 – 2004 (Chairman 2002 – 2004), Taxation Incentives for the Arts Committee (2000 – 2006). Alan has also been awarded with the honour of Chevalier in the Order of Arts and Letters by the French government and is an Adjunct Professor at the Curtin University School of Art.

*Richard Goodwin*
*Principal, Richard Goodwin Pty Ltd*

Richard Goodwin has been an exhibiting artist since 1974, including 33 solo exhibitions. Trained as an architect, he graduated in 1977 and went on to gain a Master of Architecture in 2000. Currently he holds the position of Professor at the University of New South Wales College of Fine Arts, where he runs the Porosity Studio, a cross disciplinary think-tank which concentrates its concerns on the public realm including public art and architectural/design concerns.

Richard's work is held in major collections including the Art Gallery of NSW, the National Gallery of Victoria and the Nuremburg Museum. Exhibitions include 3 Sculpture Triennials, 3 Australian Perspectas, The Third International Drawing Trienniale, Innensiete a Satellite of Documenta 10 in Kassel, Distance Tokyo and Kyoto.

Richard has completed many public commissions including: *Mobius Sea* outside the Art Gallery of NSW, *The Corvette Memorial* on Garden Island, *Exoskeleton Tower-Reach* at the Galleries Victoria in Sydney, *Cyclexoskeleton* at 345 George Street, UTS Law School Commission, Charles Street Pedestrian Bridge, Bicentennial Park Bridge and 15 Freeway projects including Gore Hill Freeway, Glebe Island Arterial in Pyrmont and City West Link Road.

In 2003 he was awarded the Sydney Water Prize for his work "Carapace" for Sculpture By The Sea. In 2004 he won the Helen Lempriere Award for sculpture with the work "Prosthetic Apartment B".

His company, Richard Goodwin Pty Ltd, was established to further facilitate his work as an artist affecting architecture and urban planning. The company is now responsible for a significant range of architectural works, public space and urban planning collaborations as well as site specific sculpture.

Richard Goodwin is now at the forefront of the debate regarding the role of public art in redefining both art and architecture.

*Elena Taylor*
*Curator, Australian Painting & Sculpture,*
*National Gallery of Australia*

Elena Taylor is Curator of Australian Painting and Sculpture at the National Gallery of Australia. She was the co-ordinating curator of the National Gallery's National Sculpture Prize and Exhibition in 2001, 2003 and 2005 and has recently curated the retrospective exhibition *Grace Crowley: Being Modern*. Prior to taking up her position at the National Gallery in 2000 she was Curator of Special Art Collections at the Australian War Memorial.

## The Management Committee

The development of this Award and exhibition has benefited from the guidance and counsel of the Management Committee, whose members are:

- Lynne O'Halloran, Senior Manager, Events & Marketing Production, Perpetual Limited
- Justin Jacobs, Practice Development Manager, Perpetual Limited
- Rhonda Macdonald, Manager, Werribee Park
- Anne Robertson, Manager, The Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award and Director, Robertson Arts Projects
- Marita Rosenberg, Robertson Arts Projects
- Clifford Moss, Robertson Arts Projects
- Michelle Campbell, Director, Minc Communications

A group of experienced art collectors, arts administrators and artists who have provided advice to the Management team throughout the year include:

- Ann Lewis, AM
- William Nuttall, Director, Niagara Galleries
- Brett Phillips, Director, 3 Deep Design
- Anna Schwartz, Anna Schwartz Gallery
- Ron Ramsey, Director, Newcastle Regional Gallery

## Lempriere Corporate Partners

*Parks Victoria*

Parks Victoria recognises the potential benefits of arts projects in outdoor settings. There are several examples of Parks Victoria's highly successful pursuit of this vision. These include:

- the Environmental Sculpture Park on Herring Island, on the edge of the Melbourne CBD – a stimulating collection of sculptures created in situ by Australian and international artists
- Westgate Park Sculpture Trail
- Summer Exhibition Programs at the Herring Island Art Gallery
- an ongoing Artist in Residence Program in the parklands of the Yarra Valley

Parks Victoria's support of The Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award is part of an ongoing commitment to encouraging the display of environmentally sensitive artworks in Victoria's parks. Art used in this way becomes a means of attracting people who might not otherwise visit. Thus, a wider cross section of the community become aware of the existence and significance of Victoria's parklands. At the same time, the works bring to the parks a new and exciting experience for visitors enjoying more traditional activities such as barbecues and picnics.

## Lempriere Corporate Partners

*Sofitel Mansion & Spa*

Sofitel Mansion & Spa, located within the grounds of Werribee Park, is a great supporter of the Award as the official hotel and venue for all events associated with it. The hotel's contemporary design and unique style are in perfect keeping with the Award, and it is hoped that all visitors to the exhibition have an opportunity to enjoy the hotel's many luxurious facilities including Joseph's Restaurant and LeSpa.

*Shadowfax Wines*

Situated in great wine country in the heart of beautiful Werribee Park, Shadowfax is one of Victoria's most renowned boutique wineries, producing a range of super-premium wines. Shadowfax proudly provides the wine for all events associated with the Award.

*3 Deep Design*

3 Deep Design provides highly crafted and intelligent design solutions for Australia's leading companies and individuals in the manufacturing, education, and arts and cultural sectors. The studio has been recognised with over 50 national awards for excellence in visual identity design, installation/exhibition design, publishing, and event branding. 3 Deep Design is proud to be associated with The Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award and will continue to provide challenging and inspirational design solutions.

*J. K. Fasham*

A metal fabricator for the past 30 years, this company has built and installed major sculptures for many of Australia's leading sculptors. J. K. Fasham's sponsorship of the 2008 Award exhibition has involved the installation of the works of all 25 finalists.

*Wyndham City Council*

The Wyndham City Council supports the Lempriere by presenting the Wyndam City Council Acquisitive Prize, valued at $35,000. The chosen work will be permanently placed within the City precinct. The Council also assists with the production of innovative promotional activities to support the Award.

*Bundanon Trust*

A Living Arts Centre

Arthur and Yvonne Boyd's gift of the Bundanon properties and collections has given Australia a unique cultural and environmental asset. The Bundanon gift was borne out of Arthur Boyd's often stated belief that 'you can't own a landscape' and the deeply felt wish that others might draw inspiration from Bundanon as he did.

The Bundanon Trust was established in March 1993 to develop Bundanon as a 'living arts centre' according to the principles agreed with the Boyds, creating a platform for a cultural institution, unique in Australia if not the world.

Bundanon Trust manages the natural and cultural heritage of Bundanon and allows people to experience Arthur Boyd's legacy in many different ways.

*Bambra Press*

Bambra Press has worked closely with Australia's leading Arts organisations for many years. They take pride in fostering these partnerships to the benefit of the community and culture. Their support of The Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award allows Bambra Press to demonstrate what they are made of!

## Past Winners

2007 Winners

Award Winner
Julia Davis *Meniscii*

Wyndham City Council $35,000 Acquisitive Prize
Matt Calvert *Boy*

Commended
Louise Paramor *Industrial Jam Session*

Encouragement Award
Jos Van Hulsen *Casualty Numbers*

Popular Choice Award
Roh Singh *Domestic Disturbance*

*Previous Winners*

2006 Alexander Knox *Death of a White Good*
2005 William Eicholtz *The Comrade's Reward*
2004 Richard Goodwin *Prosthetic Apartment B*
2003 Gary Wilson *Untitled*
2002 Nigel Helyer *Meta Diva*
2001 Karen Ward *Hut*

## 2008 Participating Artists

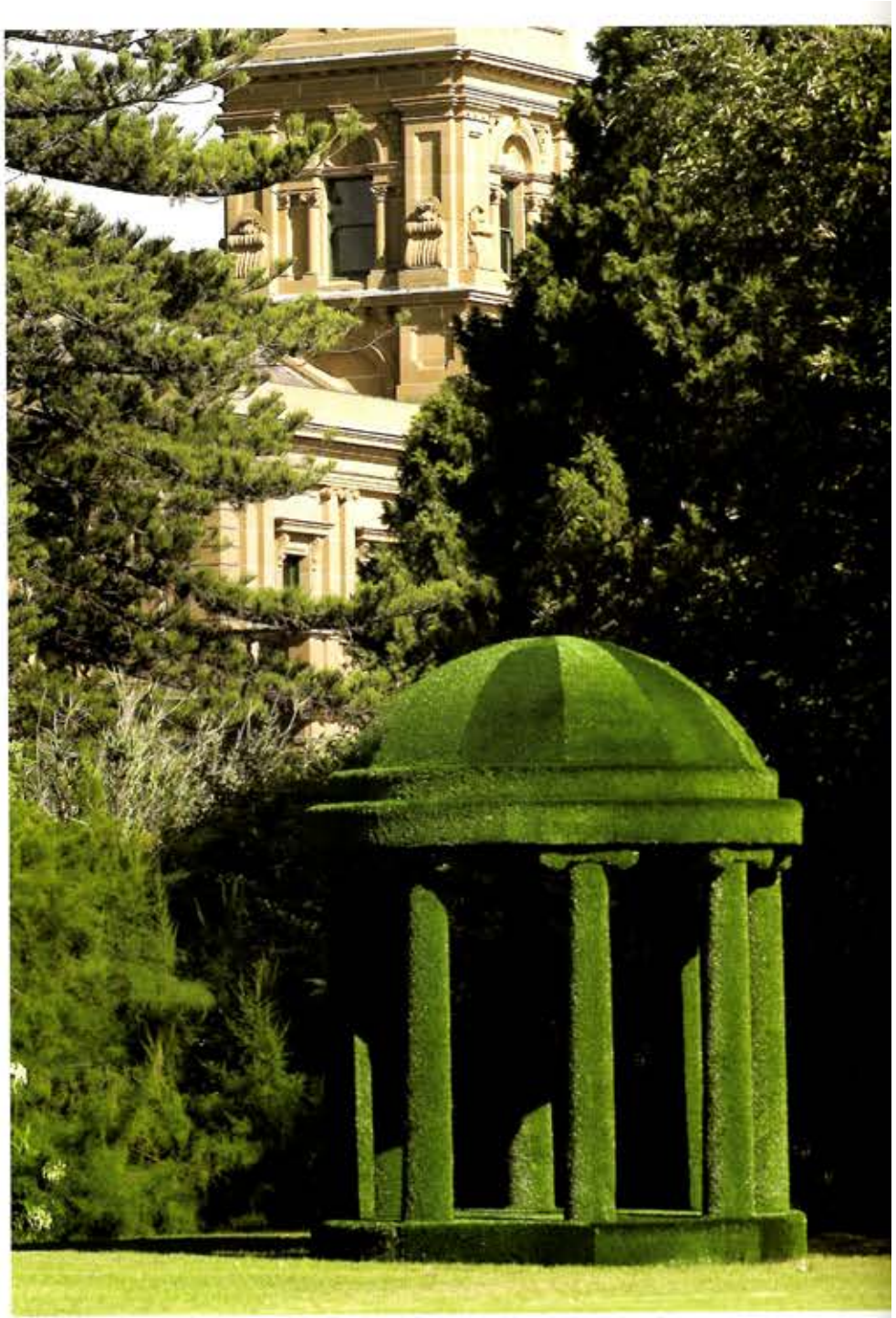
Duke Albada
Guy Bottroff
Dean Bowen
Sebastian Di Mauro
Anna Eggert
Ben Fasham
Matthys Gerber
Mark Grey-Smith
Matthew Harding
Bob Jenyns
John Kelly
Tim Kyle
Jonathan Leahey
Donna Marcus
Nerine Martini
Joanne Mott
John Nicholson
Louise Paramor
Aseem Pereira
Kirsteen Pieterse
Kerrie Poliness
Lisa Roet
Tim Spellman
Jon Tarry
Arthur Wicks

We are enormously grateful to this year's shortlisted artists for their commitment to this project. Selected fro 200 applicants, they have invested greatly – emotionally physically and financially in this exhibition. The quality of their work fully reflects this commitment.

# The Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award at Werribee Park

## 2008 Award Finalists

**Sebastian Di Mauro**
*Folly (Themeda triandra syn. T.australis)* 2008
timber, polystyrene, fibre glass, artificial grass
396 x 310 cm



## Sebastian Di Mauro
## Folly

*Folly (Themeda triandra syn. T.australis)* 2008
timber, polystyrene, fibre glass, artificial grass
396 x 310 cm

Colonizers 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 colonized Australia. There was a strong desire to imitate what they had left behind and to ignore the idiosyncratic aspects of the newly discovered country in which they had begun a new life.

Grand homes, lush green landscapes and intensive farming shaped much of Australia where the rainfall is low and there is an authentic flora and fauna.

*Folly* critiques colonization and its continued influence on contemporary Australian life.

### Education

1996 Master of Arts (Visual Arts), Monash University, Victoria
1991 Graduate Diploma of Arts (Visual Arts), Monash University, Victoria
1987 Bachelor of Arts, Queensland College of Art, Brisbane

### Selected solo exhibitions

2007 *Archimedes' Bath*, Sullivan + Strumpf Fine Art, Sydney
*Suburban Abstractions 4*, Artspace Mackay Regional Gallery and Museum
2006 *Float*, Dianne Tanzer Gallery, Melbourne
2005 *Suburban Abstractions 2*, Bundaberg Arts Centre, Bundaberg
2004 *Suburban Abstractions: Lifts*, Project, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
*Suburban Abstractions: Roots*, Dianne Tanzer Gallery, Melbourne

### Selected group exhibitions

2007 *15 years of Urban Art Projects*, QUT Art Museum, Brisbane
*Group Show 07*, Sullivan + Strumpf Fine Art, Paddington, Sydney
2006 *Unbound: artists' books from the collection*, State Library of Queensland, Brisbane
2005 *UAM Project Show*, University Art Museum, University of Queensland, Brisbane
*Academici*, Faculty Gallery, Monash University, Melbourne
*The Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award*, Werribee Park, Melbourne
2004 *Matter of Time*, Tamworth Fibre Textile Biennale, Tamworth Regional Gallery and National
*Melt*, British School at Rome, Italy
*Temperature: Contemporary Queensland Sculpture*, Museum of Brisbane, Brisbane
2003 *McClelland Sculpture Survey and Award*, McClelland Gallery, Langwarrin, Victoria

### Selected awards and commissions

2007 Finalist, *Woollahra Sculpture Prize*, Woollahra Municipal Council
2005 *High Commendation, Art & Architecture Award* for public art work *Undulant*, Queensland Institute of Architects
2002 Residency, British School at Rome, Australia Council
Major Public Artwork, Queensland Government
2001 Winner, *Woollahra Sculpture Prize*, Woollahra Municipal Council

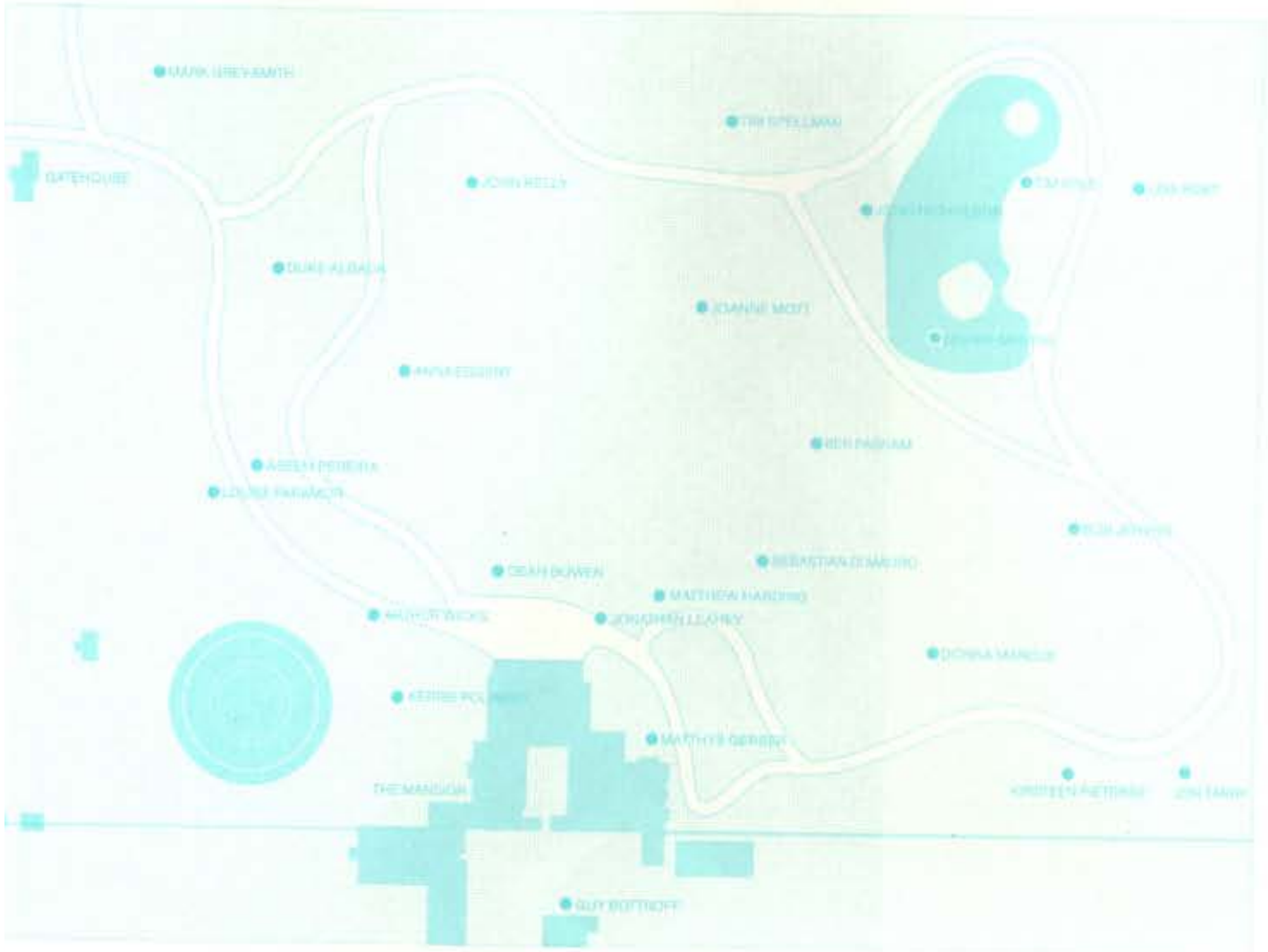
### Publications

In addition to appearing in exhibition catalogues, the work of Sebastian Di Mauro has featured in articles or reviews in *The New McCulloch's Encyclopedia of Australian Art* and *Architecture Australia*. Sebastian Di Mauro's work is also included in the following publications:
*Temperature: Contemporary Queensland Sculpture* by Kubler, A, Brisbane City Council 2004
*Between Material, Sebastian Di Mauro* by Morrell, T., and Magon, J. Between Material, Sebastian Di Mauro, 1998
*Fire and Shadow: Spirituality in Australian Contemporary Art* by Drury, N.,Voigt, A., Craftsman House, 1996

### Acknowledgements

The artist would like to thank Tom Justice, Trent Berry, John Price and Urban Art Projects.

### Represented by

Dianne Tanzer Gallery, Melbourne
Sullivan + Strumpf Fine Art, Sydney

Location of works