Turf art flirts with meaning

By DANIELLE WOOD

SCULPTOR Sebastian Di Mauro loves to hide behind his sculptures and overhear what people say about them.

His sculpture *Astroflirt* — a steel structure coated with bright green Astroturf, which will be exhibited in Hobart over the next month — is bound to intrigue viewers to ask: "Is it a tongue? Is it a tree?"

Di Mauro just says it is an "organic shape" and the rest is up to viewers.

"It's fun — you can touch it, you can lean against it," he said.

Di Mauro likes to experiment with unusual materials such as astroturf and carpet underlay.

Astroflirt was shipped uncrated from his home in Brisbane to Hobart — because any crate big enough to hold it would be impossible to lift.

Also on show in *The Shape of Air* exhibition is Melbourne artist Rosslynd Piggot's work *Arranged Meeting — Breath of Two Men*, which features a pair of glass alembics containing the breath of two accomplished glass blowers who once worked together in Britain but are now separated on opposite sides of the planet.

Their names and the dates on which they blew the glass vessels are etched on the outside of the glass.

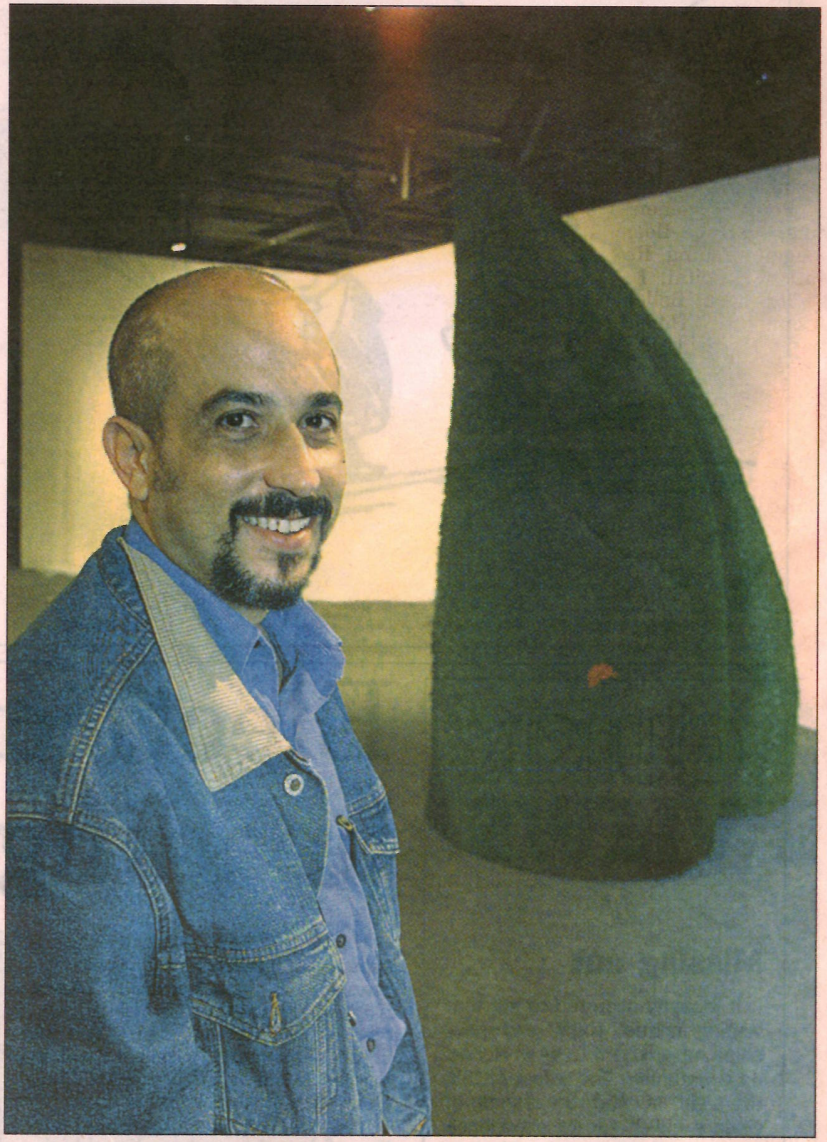
"Look at this one, you can see the salts crystalised inside the alembic, which proves that what's in here is alive," Piggot said.

The sculpture was made in 1999 for a sculpture exhibition in Britain.

It was chosen for this exhibition because it fitted so beautifully with the theme of *The Shape of Air*.

The sculpture exhibition opened last night at the Plimsoll Gallery in the School of Art in Hunter St, and continues until June 2.

It is paired with *The Shape of Air (flat)* painting exhibition at the Dick Bett Gallery in North Hobart which runs until June 4.



ORGANIC: Sculptor Sebastian Di Mauro with his enigmatic *Astroflirt*.