

GEOFFREY BARTLETT

1988 - 2017 REVISED

MEDIA RELEASE

Exhibition Dates: 16 May - 4 June 2017
35 Derby Street Collingwood VIC 3066
Open 7 days 10am to 6pm

Geoffrey Bartlett is one of Australia's most renowned contemporary sculptors.

1988 - 2017 REVISED showcases works created across three decades by an artist of immense technical ability and with a captivating and highly distinctive visual language.

In 2007 the National Gallery of Victoria presented a major survey exhibition of Bartlett's work from 1985 – 2007 and in 2015 McClelland Sculpture Park & Gallery presented a Retrospective of the artist's 40 years of making sculpture. The McClelland exhibition and accompanying major publication surveyed the development of Bartlett's work from 1983 through to the present.

In his current exhibition, Bartlett will exhibit two sculptures he created in 1988 that have undergone a complete physical and conceptual metamorphosis, emerging from the artist's studio as entirely new works. Bartlett has also used patterns he created in 1999 and 2000 to create new pieces, and will exhibit a series of editioned sculptures realised in that era. Geoffrey Bartlett will be showing a full series of entirely new sculptures, providing the opportunity to view a diverse range of works and appreciate the artist, his best and most varied.

'Bartlett's early sculptures were planar and meant to be looked at from a distance; during his second phase his sculpture was modelled and they drew the viewer in to appreciate the density and treatment of modelled surfaces; his third phase was volumetric and invited the viewer to walk around varied three-dimensional forms; his fourth phase was locational and context dependant and his fifth phase was relational and relied upon lateral readings of disparate forms. Bartlett's most recent phase is based upon the boxed tableau format within which forms are revealed as though a curtain has been drawn onto a scene, where forms are engaged in "silent conversation" in a deeply recessional and psychologically dense space. Of course, these six aesthetic categories are not rigid or binding; Bartlett's artistic imagination moves across them as a composer might move from one musical form to another to strike a different note or engender a new mood. However, these six phases give one some idea of the broad intellectual range and refined aesthetic complexity that marks Bartlett's sculptural development from 1976 onwards.'

Excerpt from 'The Recent Sculptures of Geoffrey Bartlett' by Dr Ken Wach, 2007

Geoffrey Bartlett was the first sculptor to be granted the prestigious Harkness Fellowship and the first Australian sculptor to graduate with a Master of Fine Arts Degree from Columbia University in New York. He has held over thirty solo exhibitions and has been selected for survey exhibitions including the Mildura Sculpture Triennial, the Australian Sculpture Triennial, the Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award, the McClelland Sculpture Survey, and the National Sculpture Prize and Exhibition, National Gallery of Australia. Bartlett has undertaken public sculpture commissions for the National Gallery of Victoria; the City of Auckland, New Zealand; the City of Melbourne; the Australian National University, Canberra and Melbourne Docklands. His work is represented in the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; the National Gallery of Victoria; the Art Gallery of New South Wales; Parliament House Art Collection; Heide Museum of Modern Art and in many regional, University, corporate and private collections.

1988 - 2017 REVISED is current until 4 June 2017

For more details or images contact: media@australiangalleries.com.au
australiangalleries.com.au 03 9417 4303

