

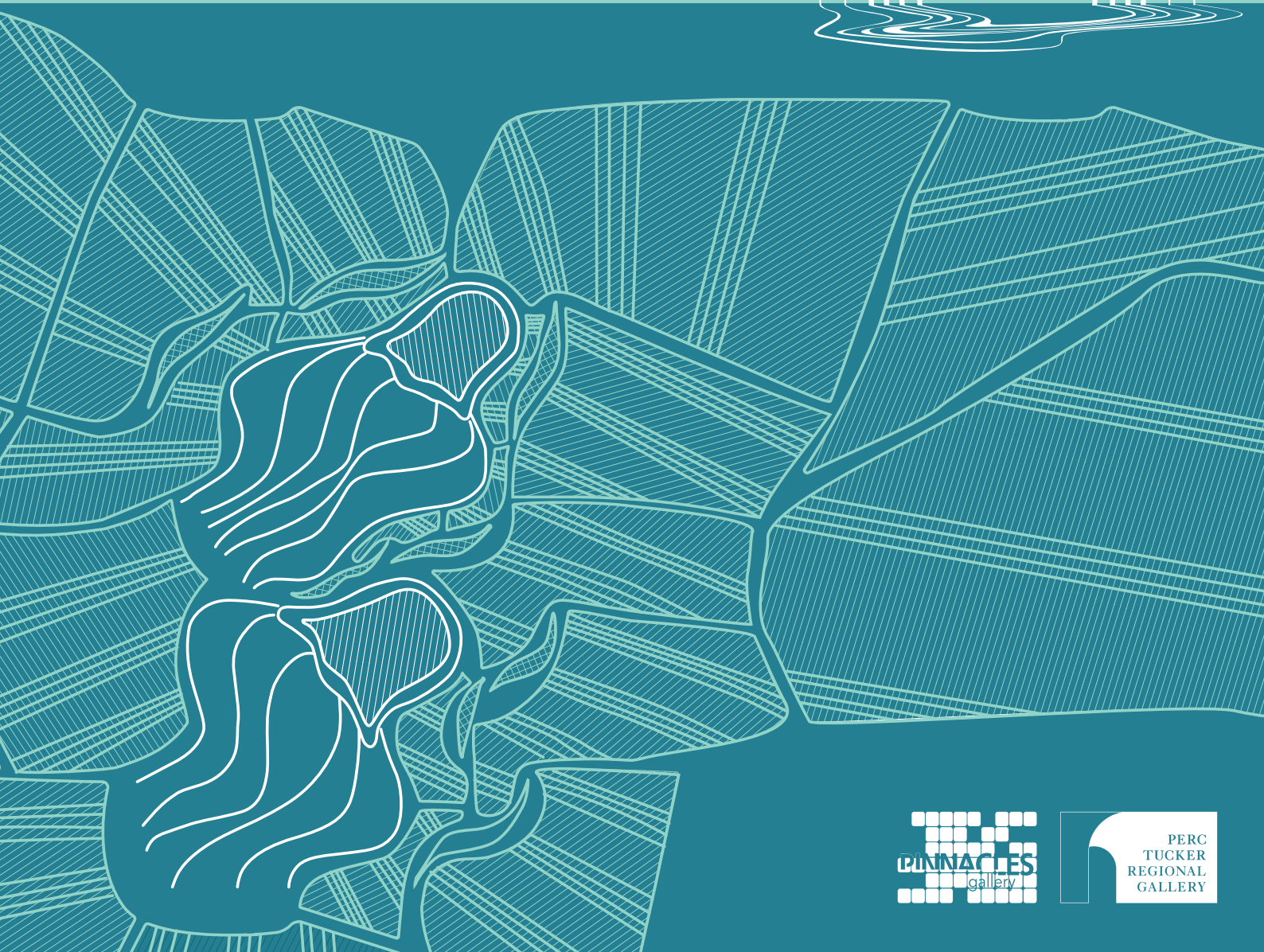
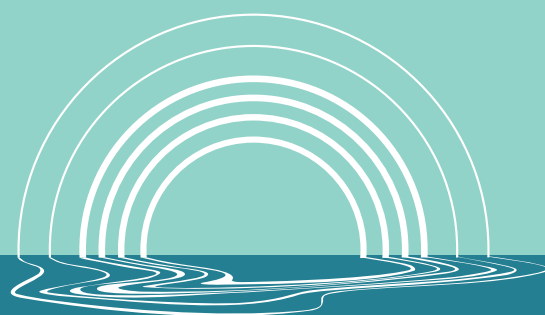


# ephemera

## Seaside Sculptures

22 July - 6 August 2023

### Education Kit



# How to Use This Resource

This Education Kit is intended to aid exhibition patrons, teachers, and students in their interpretation of the outdoor sculpture festival, *Ephemera*. It can be used as a means of encouraging individual and group responses to the art on display. Included are discussion points, engaging activities and ideas for further research. It can be used to prepare for your *Ephemera* visit, during your *Ephemera* visit, or after your *Ephemera* visit at home or in the classroom.

*Ephemera* will be on display on The Strand, Townsville from 22 July – 6 August 2023.

## Resource Credit

This resource has been put together by Townsville City Galleries.



Cover Artwork: *Jellyfish* © Selwyn Johnson 2022

Townsville City Council acknowledges the Wulgurukaba of Gurambilbarra and Yunbenun, Bindal, Gugu Badhun and Nywaigi as the Traditional Owners of this land. We pay our respects to their cultures, their ancestors and their Elders – past and present – and all future generations.

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# Exhibition Overview



*Ephemera* has been a part of Townsville's cultural identity for 22 years. It is by far our city's most visited visual arts event, and has hosted countless local, national, and international artists. This seaside sculpture festival brings together the community from far and wide, to celebrate sun, sand, and art - tropical North Queensland style. This Education Kit is specifically designed for secondary school age students, so have a go at some of the questions and activities as you make your way through *Ephemera*!

Image: Sandstorm, *WONDER Land* [detail] 2021  
Hand sculpted with bricks sand and water  
*Ephemera: Seaside Sculptures 2021* Invited Artist  
Photography: Andrew Rankin Photography

## Jellyfish by Selwyn Johnson

Local artist Selwyn Johnson created the *Jellyfish* artwork which has been used throughout the *Ephemera* 2023 Education Kit, Activity Sheet and Publication.

### About the Artist:

Selwyn Johnson has lived in Townsville his whole life and is a proud Aboriginal artist. He is a Traditional Owner of Townsville and Magnetic Island, the Wulgurukaba People, (Wulgurukaba meaning "canoe people"). The Wulgurukaba People call their Country Gurambilbarra (Townsville), and Yunbenun (Magnetic Island). The artworks Selwyn Johnson creates draw heavily from his cultural identity.

Selwyn's artwork *Jellyfish* is inspired from seeing jellyfish out in the seas:

*"The jellyfish sting, so let them be. We didn't touch them."*

His artwork shows box jellyfish travelling through ocean currents looking for food. The ocean is represented by large cross-hatching areas, with rips in the water caused by the movement of the jellyfish. The artwork uses thick and thin lines and a combination of hatching and cross-hatching techniques.



*Jellyfish* © Selwyn Johnson 2022

# Ephemera

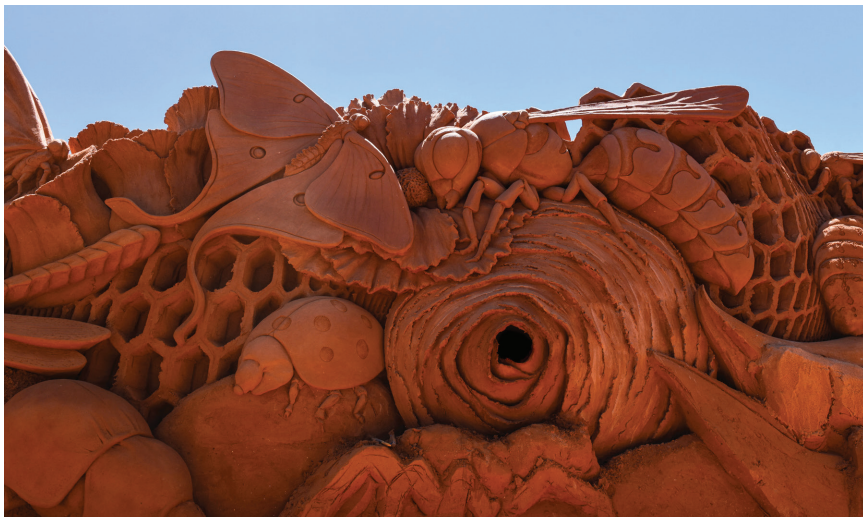


Image: Sandstorm Events  
*Dichotomy* 2023  
Hand sculpted with brickies sand and water  
300 x 850 cm  
Image courtesy of the artist.

'*Ephemera*' refers to things that last only for a short period of time. When you look at the artworks displayed on The Strand during this two-week exhibition, think about the materials that were used to create the pieces and how long these artworks might last.

*Dichotomy* is an artwork by Sandstorm Events. It is a 48-tonne carved sculpture created with only sand and water. One side of the sculpture will take you into the depths of the ocean and reefs, and the other side will take you to the tropical Australian rainforest.

*Dichotomy* is a good example of an ephemeral artwork. It will be carved and created over the duration of the exhibition, and at the end of *Ephemera*, the artwork will disappear with the sand returned to the beach.

## QUESTIONS

**Sandstorm use a natural material to create an ephemeral artwork. What other natural materials could you use to make an artwork?**

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**Can you find an artwork in the exhibition that is NOT ephemeral?**

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## ACTIVITY & DISCUSSION

Head to the artwork *Dichotomy* on The Strand and spend some time looking at this artwork. Discuss the below questions in a group or pair.

**How does the ephemeral nature of this artwork's material, sand, contribute to the meaning of the piece?**

**How do you think you would feel spending hours creating an artwork and then watching it break down?**

# Materials

A wide range of materials can be used to create a sculpture. When selecting materials for an artwork, elements such as colour, surface, texture, display, scale, and installation should be taken into account. Materials used might not only affect how an artwork will look, it can also connect with the theme and meaning of the artwork.

The Ghost Net Collective artwork, *Spiral*, creates a dichotomy between two silent predators, leaving a path of destruction through our North Queensland oceans and tropical reefs. They are juxtaposed against the hope represented in the spiral of life shape. Visit this artwork on The Strand and complete the questions on this page.



Image: Ghost Net Collective, *Spiral* 2023  
Metal rod frame with ghost net and beach found rope  
330 x 150 x 150 cm  
Image courtesy of the artist.

## QUESTIONS

List 12 different materials used in the artworks you see along The Strand:

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## ACTIVITY & DISCUSSION

In a pair or in a group, discuss what artworks you think have been successful in their use of materials and why. What materials would you change to make an artwork more effective?

Ghost nets are discarded and lost fishing nets, drifting the oceans. Why do you think the artists have chosen this medium for their artwork?

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Looking at the artwork, can you identify what the two 'silent predators' are that the artists are referring to?

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What might be an alternative material you could use for this artwork and how could this material transform the meaning of the artwork?

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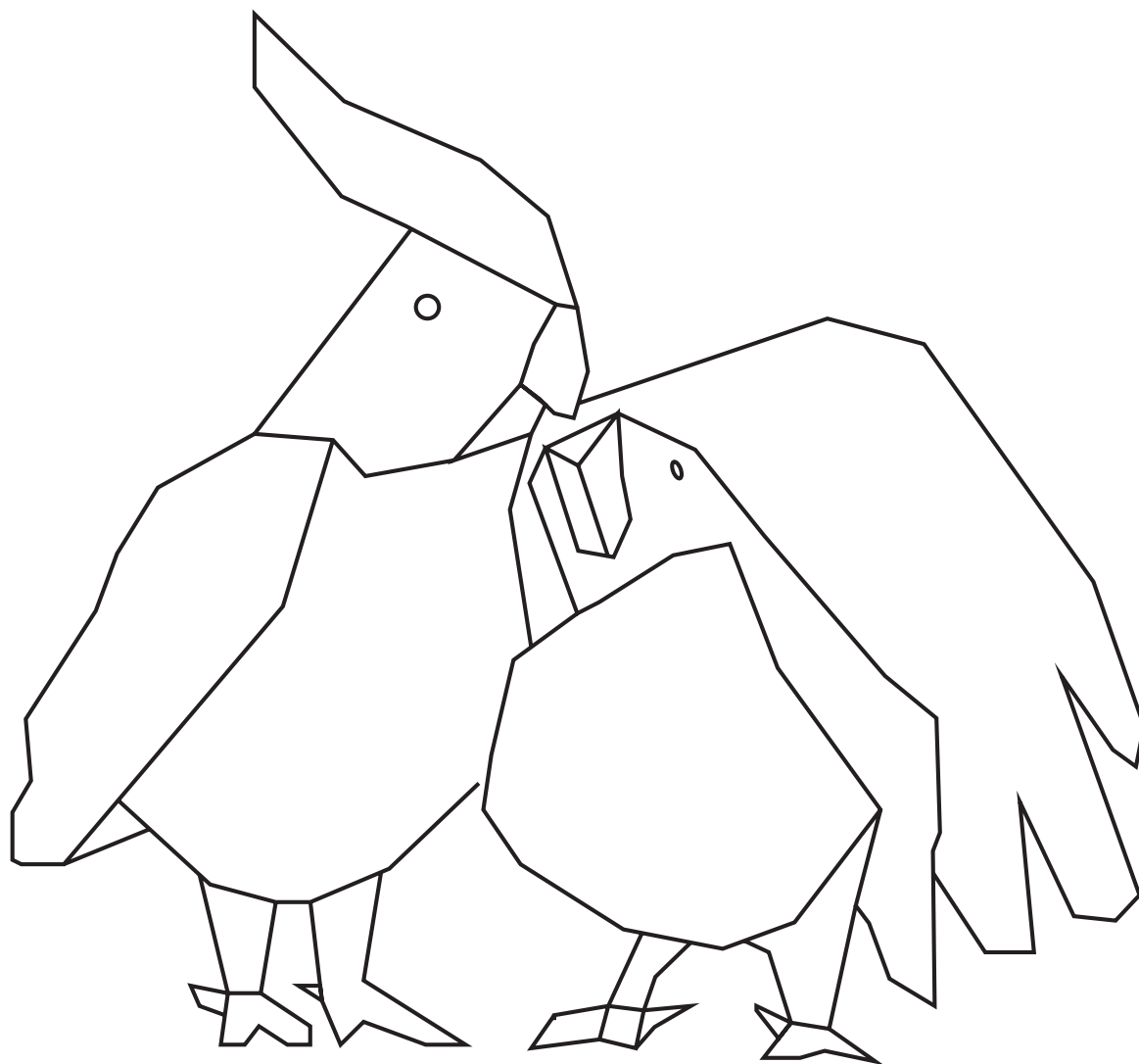
## ACTIVITY & DISCUSS

In a pair or group, can you identify any other artworks along The Strand that also use recycled materials? Discuss what you think the artist/s would have had to consider about the materials they used when it came to colour, surface, texture, display, scale, and installation of the artwork.



## ACTIVITY

At night, the bright colours projected on to *Night Parrots* bring them to life! Create a design on the *Night Parrots* outline and show what you would project onto the artwork.





## Day and Night

Another artwork that considers both day and night time viewing is International artist, Tom Fruin's *Street Ministry House*. This house sculpture is from Fruin's *Icon* series of "stained glass" structures, transforming common-place or infrastructural shapes to encourage the viewer to reconsider their surroundings. By day, the artwork is a kaleidoscope of colour, and at night it transforms into a beacon of light. The sculpture's human scale and patterning allow it to have a commanding presence when viewed from a distance, and a personal transformative experience from within!



Image: Tom Fruin, *Street Ministry House* 2022  
constructed from welded and powder-coated steel with salvaged acrylic and LED lighting  
211 x 168 x 168 cm  
Image courtesy of the artist.



### ACTIVITY & DISCUSS

**Stand inside Tom Fruin's *Street Ministry House* during the day, and then view the artwork from outside at night. Discuss in a group: How does the daylight and artificial light at night change your experience with this piece?**

# Artwork Themes

A powerful artwork has a strong theme that is engaging and relatable to its intended audience. Social, cultural, and historical factors can influence an artwork theme and concept.

The *Museum of Extinct Animals for Children*, by local artist Jan Hynes, is particularly relevant to Townsville and North Queensland, as the nine species depicted in the artwork are currently found in the local area.

Today's young children have a fascination with dinosaurs, and the artist emphasises the need to protect our Australian native fauna and flora or these unique species could become the dinosaurs of tomorrow.



Image: Jan Hynes, *The Museum of Extinct Animals for Children* 2022–23  
Nine plywood replicas of native animals from the Townsville/North Queensland region mounted on plinths and enclosed by a fence as one might see in a museum or zoo  
160 x 720 x 720 cm  
Photography: Andrew Rankin Photography

## QUESTIONS

**What themes are expressed in the artwork and does the theme have social, cultural and/or historical factors?**

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**How did the artist use materials, processes, and techniques to depict their intended theme?**

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# Artwork Themes

In this work, artist Lois Creed has transformed her materials into a shrine and tribute to herself, her family, her past and her future. This art piece has been everything; her *Golden Wheels* are illuminating, sacred, durable and precious, just like GOLD. Her installation is made from 100% recycled materials – her own wheelchair, her Cockatoo Garden ornament 'BUDDY', and her crown made from the lids from the spray cans she used to paint pieces.

A proud Wulgurukaba woman and mother, she is a local Indigenous art collector, painter, home decorator, and bringer of joy. *The Golden Wheels* installation is everything that defines her family, her ancestors, and her, all as precious as GOLD!



Image: Lois Creed, *The Golden Wheels* 2022  
Metal, vinyl, paint, rubber  
100 x 70 x 60 cm  
Photography: Andrew Rankin Photography

## ACTIVITY

***The Golden Wheels* depicts the battles that the artist has undergone and celebrates her identity, her life, and her ancestors. If you were to represent yourself, your struggles and successes, your family, and your identity through an artwork, what precious item/s in your life would you use? Draw an artwork concept using your precious item/s in the box below.**

# Develop a Proposal

When developing proposals for *Ephemera*, artists are asked to consider things such as the use of materials, concept of artwork, size and construction, installation and site location, and how their work will be viewed for both day and night audiences. What artwork would you submit to *Ephemera* if you were entering? Consider the points above and fill out the proposal below:

## YOUR PROPOSAL

**Artist Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Artwork Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Artwork Dimensions:**

Height: \_\_\_\_\_ cm   Width: \_\_\_\_\_ cm   Depth: \_\_\_\_\_ cm

**Materials:** (consider why you are using a certain material)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Concept:** (what is your artwork about?)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Artwork location:**

(where on The Strand would your artwork best suit and why?)

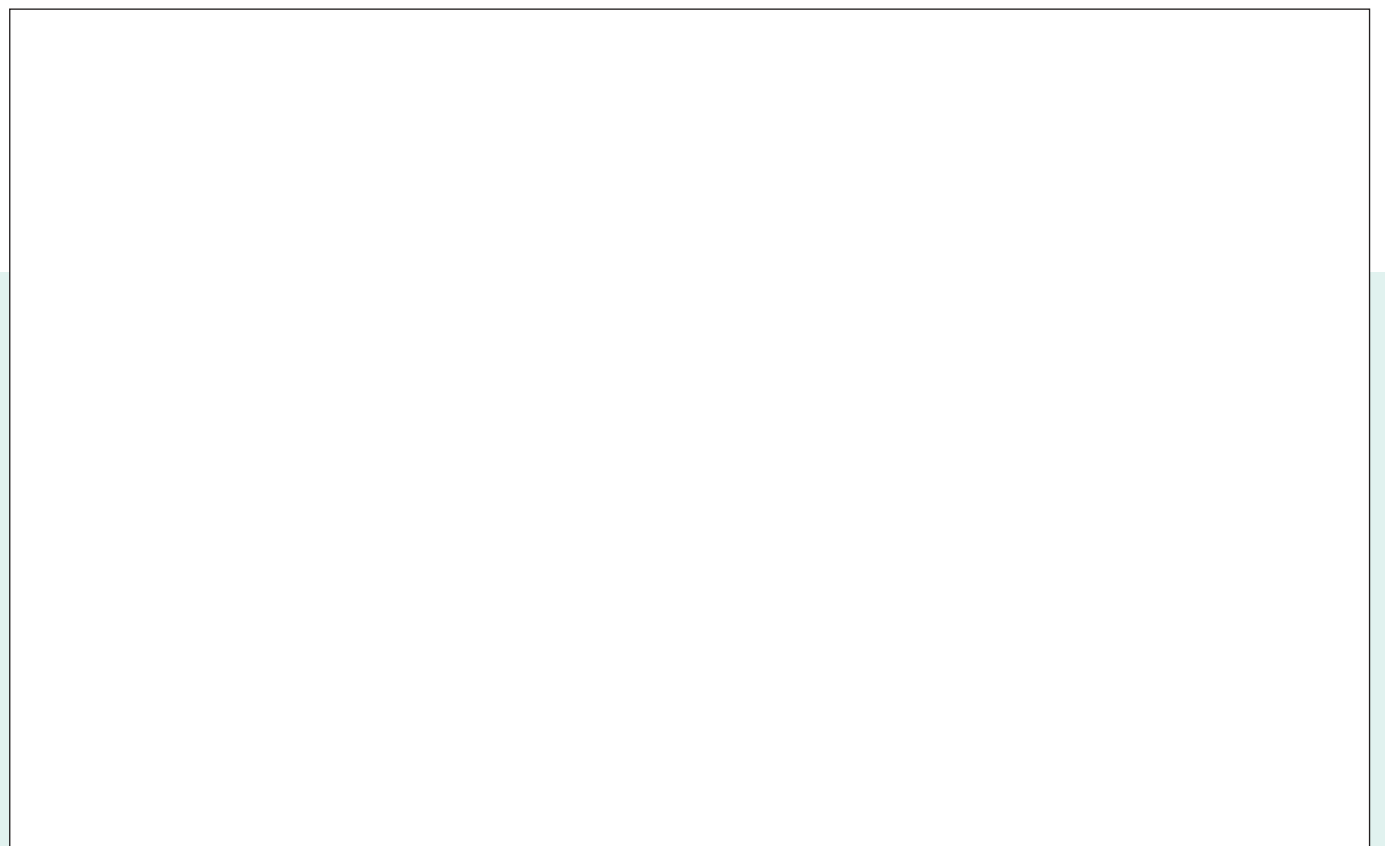
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Construction and Installation:**

(how is your artwork constructed and what do you need to consider when installing the work?)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Artwork Proposal Sketch:** (Draw your proposed *Ephemera* artwork below)





# Become a Judge

At *Ephemera* we have a judging panel who decide what artwork will get the major prize, the Artistic Excellence Award, based on criteria such as concept and health and safety.

On your own or working in a group, choose a winning sculpture.

**What criteria will you use to decide on the best artwork?**

**Record your winner and justifications below.**

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Artist:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria:**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

We also have the *Ephemera* Acquisitive Prize. This prize involves selecting an artwork to become a permanent piece in Townsville.

**If you were judging this section, what would you have to think about differently to the above category?**

**Think about how long the artwork would need to last.**

**Criteria for permanent artwork:**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## wilson/ryan/grose Lawyers People's Choice Award

Love *Ephemera*? Want to make sure your favourite competitive artwork is recognised? You can cast your vote online or in the marble run at Strand Park!

The most popular artwork, as judged by *Ephemera* visitors, will receive the *wilson/ryan/grose Lawyers People's Choice Award* of \$1,000.

wilson/ryan/grose LAWYERS

CAST YOUR VOTE  
USING THE  
QR CODE



Voting closes 11.59pm, Friday 4 August 2023.

The winner of the *wilson/ryan/grose Lawyers People's Choice Award* will be announced on social media.

\*For full T&Cs please visit our website [ephemera-tsv.com.au](http://ephemera-tsv.com.au)

# Interview with The Glue Society

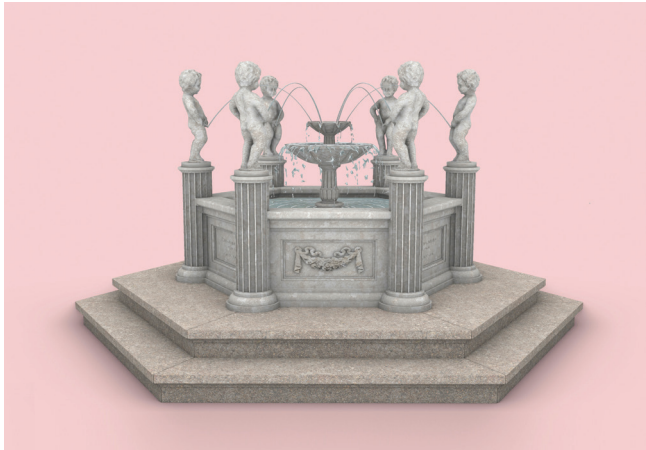


Image: The Glue Society  
*Fountain of Youth 2023*  
Manneken Pis replica statues, concrete statue plinth, custom built central bath, concrete base, 120GPH recirculating fountain pump and mechanical rotating platform with timer  
120 x 210 cm  
Image courtesy of the artist.

## What is the Glue Society?

The Glue Society is an internationally renowned art and directing collective, who have exhibited at Miami Art Basel, Hecho en Casa Chile, Art & About Sydney, UN Climate Council Paris COP21, London Design Festival and Sculpture by the Sea Denmark & Australia.

## How do you work together as a team/collective?

We are a team of 8 writers/directors and editors who collaborate on ideas and direct projects - having several directors under one roof means we can support each other and have feedback and opinions on the work we make.

## What are your artistic influences?

We are always inspired by the opportunity to create work which involves the audience in a conversation - providing an opportunity to learn from each other and from the connection. Much of our work is site specific and in the real world - as opposed to being gallery based. And for that reason we are often included in conversations around 'Relational Aesthetics' where work has the chance to change opinions because of its public exposure.

## Why did you choose *Fountain of Youth* for *Ephemera*?

After the last two years of lockdowns and the current state of the world, we wanted to create something that brings a bit of joy. This is our (literal) spin on the allegory of The Fountain of Youth - a mythical spring that restores a youthful spirit to anyone who touches it. Rather unusually, 6 identical copies of the iconic *Manneken Pis* statue are assembled in a circle peeing into a central bath representing the male ego at work. But the work hides a secret that needs

to be experienced to be believed. This twist on the traditional fountain sculpture will capture the playful nature of childhood, ultimately delivering on the elusive promise of the Fountain of Youth.

## How long did it take you to create *Fountain of Youth*, and what was the process involved?

To build a sculpture of this nature takes time and takes a team. We started by creating a mock digital artwork of what the fountain could look like, then approached a production designer we collaborate with frequently.

From here, we go through design development and modelling to create a blueprint of how to build the final project. This is where we discussed everything to do with the footprint of the fountain, from the style of the bath and pillars to the fountain arcs. In this process we discovered that we needed something to be off about the work the moment you look at it, that it brings a smile to your face even without our surprise.

Once we signed off on this blueprint, we started working with our construction builder to assemble the final fountain. This is where the final fountain was assembled, kinks were worked out, testing happened and also working out how to transport our final piece to Townsville.

## What do you like most about sculpture/installation work?

Building the impossible is what we pride ourselves on - things that you never thought could work in the real world. Creating an experience in real life that makes you question its reality or how it's made is a creative challenge that we find addictive - because when you get it right, you have achieved what no one thought possible.

## What are you currently working on?

Our biggest project is currently *Earth's Black Box* - we are working with an architect to create a black box for Earth in Tasmania that will record all of our climate change actions. A 10 by 4 by 3 metre steel structure that's being installed on a remote outcrop on Tasmania's west coast. The idea is that the Tasmanian site can cradle the black box for the benefit of a future civilisation, record and hold humanity to account should catastrophic climate change cause the downfall of ours.

## Do you have a key piece of advice you'd share with any aspiring artists that might be reading this?

The Glue Society has a 25 year history of making the impossible possible. If our history proves anything, it is that if you believe in something strongly enough, then you can make it happen - and we think that any aspiring artist can do the same.

# Key Terms

- Acquisitive Prize** To acquire is to buy or obtain. The *Ephemera* Acquisitive Prize acquires the winning artwork for the City of Townsville Art Collection.
- Dichotomy** A division or contrast between two things that are, or are represented as, being opposed or entirely different.
- Dimensions** Dimensions are the measurable qualities of an object, such as length, width, and height.
- Ephemeral** Lasting for a very short time.
- Installation Art** The installation or configuration of objects in a space. Installation art builds on sculpture by transforming the perception of a space.
- Juxtapose** To show the difference between two things, for comparison or contrast, by presenting them together or side by side.
- Kaleidoscope** A constantly changing pattern or sequence of elements.
- Projection** The presentation of an image on a surface. Light and colours can be used to project digital images or moving images onto a range of surfaces.
- Projection Mapping** A technological innovation that lets you overlap video onto any surface, such as a building or table, via projection.
- Scale** The size of an object in relation to its surroundings.
- Sculpture** Three-dimensional art. It can be in the form of carving, shaping, building, and constructing.
- Site Specific** When something is created, designed, or selected for a specific location. This can be physically or conceptually.
- Theme** A specific idea, story, or intended purpose for an artwork.
- Three-Dimensional** An object that has height, width and depth.



**Capture your favourite moments at *Ephemera* for the chance to win some fantastic prizes!**

To enter, simply upload your photograph to Instagram, and add the hashtag for the category you are wanting to enter.

## Categories

### Ephemera Youth

(17 years and under)

**#ephemerayouth**

**Winner**

\$500 Garricks  
Camera House  
Voucher

**Runner-up**

\$250 Garricks  
Camera House  
Voucher

### Ephemera Open

(18 years and older)

**#ephemeraopen**

**Winner**

\$1000 Garricks  
Camera House  
Voucher

**Runner-up**

\$250 Garricks  
Camera House  
Voucher

If your Instagram account is private, head to our website [ephemera-tsv.com.au](http://ephemera-tsv.com.au) and use the competition link to upload your photograph.

**Entries close 11.59pm**

**Sunday 6 August 2023.**

Winners will be announced on social media.

\*For full T&Cs please visit our website [ephemera-tsv.com.au](http://ephemera-tsv.com.au)

