

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW visual artists vie for \$50k Create NSW Fellowship in partnership with Artbank

Seven artists have been shortlisted for this year's NSW Visual Arts Fellowship (Mid-career/Established), with one artist or partnership set to receive a cash amount of \$30,000 from Create NSW, a major Artbank commission of up to \$20,000 and a residency at a NSW regional gallery.

The work of Zanny Begg, Claire Healy and Sean Cordeiro, Jonathan Jones, Eugenia Raskopoulos, Keg de Souza and Justene Williams will be featured in an exhibition at Artbank in Sydney (26 October 2017 – 16 February 2018), with the Fellowship recipient to be announced on the opening night of the exhibition.

The Fellowship is awarded annually to provide a mid-career or established artist with the opportunity to undertake a self-directed program of professional development. It is supported by Artbank and delivered in partnership with the Murray Arts Museum Albury (MAMA), and the Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Arts Centre (TRGMOAC) in the Northern Rivers.

In addition to the \$30,000 funding from Create NSW, Artbank will fund the creation of a major commission for the Artbank collection to the value of \$20,000. The Fellow can also elect to undertake a five-week residency at one of the supporting regional galleries.

Create NSW CEO Michael Brealey said that investment and support for mid-career and established artists is essential for the continued strengthening of the arts and cultural offering across the state.

"The impressive shortlist for the Fellowship shows just how exciting the NSW visual arts space is. By offering new opportunities for artists to continue to develop, we can help them to thrive and share their expertise with new audiences and organisations across the state."

Minister for the Arts Don Harwin added, "I am delighted to see such a talented list of NSW artists gaining recognition through this opportunity, and I'm excited for them that their impressive works will be showcased to the public through Artbank. I wish all of the artists the best of luck in the run up to this exhibition."

Artbank Director Tony Stephens commented, "We are extremely proud to again be part of this year's Fellowship. In addition to its alignment with Artbank's core objectives it also provides essential support and acknowledgment for mid-career and established artists and highlights the need to invest in creative practices at all stages of their career.

"The first exhibition featuring the shortlisted artists at our gallery in Sydney was a huge success and we are very much looking forward to launching the second in October where this year's Fellow will be announced," Mr Stephens said.

For further information on arts, screen and cultural funding, including targeted support opportunities, visit www.create.nsw.gov.au or email arts.funding@create.nsw.gov.au

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The shortlisted artists / partnerships for the 2018 Create NSW Visual Arts Fellowship (Mid-career/Established) are:

- **Zanny Begg** (Bulli) is an artist and film-maker who creates works that are influenced by the traditions of documentary as well as the creative tensions between artifice and realism.
 - **Claire Healy and Sean Cordeiro** (Blackheath) work collaboratively to create art that re-purposes accumulated objects into extraordinary sculptures and installations with a distinctive humour and aesthetic.
 - **Jonathan Jones** (Bondi) creates site-specific installations and interventions that focus on the exploration of Aboriginal practices, relationships and ideas using a range of mediums including printmaking, drawing, sculpture and film.
 - **Eugenia Raskopoulos** (Bardwell Park) focuses on ideas of identity, the fragmented body, language, translation and transcription, exploring the margins of photography and video that synthesizes performance, writing, drawing and large-scale installation.
 - **Keg de Souza** (Waterloo) works with multiple mediums including temporary architecture, food and dialogical projects to explore the politics of space.
 - **Justene Williams** (East-Hills) current practice focuses on the creation of elaborate handmade sets and costumes for both live performances and large scale sensorial video installations.
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