

HIDDEN Proposals

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the themes for HIDDEN 2020?

The themes for HIDDEN 2020 are history, culture, remembrance, love, mourning, cycles of life and the passage of time.

We are looking for works that respond to the cemetery in various ways, such as personal, spiritual and cultural narratives to community significance, layered histories and physical forms.

What types of works will be selected for HIDDEN 2020 Sculptures and Students?

We are open to a wide range of artistic approaches, materials and forms. There is the possibility of involving kinetic elements, performance and participatory engagements. We are looking for a broad span of works ranging from the celebratory, big, bright and colourful – to the contemplative, intimate and thought provoking.

Can I propose a work that I haven't made yet?

Yes, artists may propose works yet to be made or existing works that relate to the exhibition's themes.

What types of works will not be considered suitable for HIDDEN?

Works that are interpreted offensive or insensitive to the culture of Rookwood Cemetery are not suitable for HIDDEN.

Rookwood is an active cemetery; many people attend funerals and memorial services here as well as visit the graves of loved ones. It is important that HIDDEN considers the sensitivities of these visitors who are in mourning, so artworks alluding to violence, murder and/or suicide are generally not suitable for exhibition in HIDDEN. If you have specific questions about this please contact the curator, Kath Fries, curator@rookwoodcemetery.com.au

Where can I see works from previous HIDDEN exhibitions?

The HIDDEN 2019 exhibition catalogue can be viewed on the website or here at http://www.hiddeninrookwood.com.au/assets/documents/HIDDEN_Catalogue_2019.pdf

What types of works are suitable for HIDDEN Sculptures and Students?

Works that:

- are site-appropriate that engage with the themes of HIDDEN
- can be installed within a week
- can be completely removed at the conclusion of the exhibition
- can withstand the weather, particularly strong winds and heavy rain (or the artist is/will be available to repair the work if it is damaged by the weather)

Can I request a specific site for my work at Rookwood?

You can include a general site request in your application, i.e. under a tree, on grass lawn, in gardens or undercover (please be aware that there are limited undercover sites available in the rest houses and they may not be completely weather proof). Please do not request a specific site as the Sculpture Walk path is often changed due to erosion, maintenance, restoration and accessibility of different areas. Due to the sensitivities of the cemetery, final placement of works will be determined by the Curator and Rookwood General Cemetery, in consultation with the artists.



Can I visit Rookwood to look at the area where the Sculpture Walk will be held before submitting my proposal?

Yes, you can visit Rookwood anytime between sunrise and sunset.

The 2020 Sculpture Walk path will be slightly different from 2019, but still in the same area. You can find the 2019 Sculpture Walk map here on pages 10-11. http://www.hiddeninrookwood.com.au/assets/documents/HIDDEN_Catalogue_2019.pdf

What equipment can Rookwood supply to assist with installation?

Rookwood will supply star-pickets to secure sculptures into the ground as well as platform ladders to assist with heights. Due to safety concerns artists are not allowed to use their own ladders to install. Rookwood can also lend artists shovels and other manual equipment for installation. If you need power tools you will need to bring those with you. Please contact the Curator if you will need assistance with other equipment or tools.

What are the safety requirements for installing at Rookwood?

As Rookwood is a working cemetery, artists are treated like “contractors” when on site. In 2020 the WHS process is:

- Rookwood will review all works post selection to identify safety concerns. Artists will receive feedback on this process.
- Artists will need to complete an online site induction and acknowledge they have read Rookwood’s WHS policy
- Artists will also be required to complete a Risk Assessment or Safe Work Method Statement for their install (depending on the level of risk identified by Rookwood) – artists will be assisted by Rookwood staff to complete these
- Artists will need to wear a hat, closed-in shoes and a hi-vis vest (vest to be provided by Rookwood) during install

How much assistance can the staff at Rookwood give with install?

Rookwood dedicate one external staff member to assist with manual tasks during install, with their time being scheduled for longer installs. Additional staff will be called in on an at-need basis for complicated installs (eg if a crane is required). This assistance will need to be prior arranged with the Curator. Artists are asked to understand that funerals always take priority but staff will do their best to ensure artists are not inconvenienced. Artists are strongly encouraged to bring friends, family or professionals to assist with their installation.

Why is install two weeks before the exhibition opening?

Photos for the catalogue are taken in-situ by Rookwood's in-house designer / photographer. We pride ourselves on showcasing the artworks within the cemetery and need at least one week to have the catalogues printed and delivered before the official opening.

What is the weather usually like at Rookwood when HIDDEN is on?

Spring weather at Rookwood is a mix of warm sunny days, heavy rain and strong winds. Consider how your work will withstand the weather: will the materials and structure hold up in hot sunshine, will it disintegrate in heavy rain or might it be blown over in strong winds?



Can I propose an ephemeral work?

Ephemeral works will be considered if the artist proposes to maintain the work throughout the exhibition. This will usually involve tending to the work once a week, repairing and adding to the elements that have disintegrated or disappeared. Although it is expected that most of the works will change over the duration of the exhibition due to weathering, public interaction and surrounding plant growth, it is important that the exhibition is just as engaging for visitors on its final day as it was on the opening day.

My work needs electricity, is there mains power accessible on the Sculpture Walk?

There are only two sites with mains power, so we recommend that artists incorporate solar power into their proposal if their work needs electricity.

Can I propose to put my work next to an actual grave?

There will be some artwork sites available next to graves, but works cannot be installed on actual graves. Sometimes we may be able to use empty graves sites surrounded by other graves. In such cases, these plots are still owned by Rookwood – no family gravesites will ever be encroached upon.

Can I dig into the ground to install my work?

Yes, you can dig into the ground to install your work (as the artwork sites are never on graves). Most installation processes will involve digging into the ground to secure the work.

Can I propose a work that reproduces or uses inscriptions from headstones?

Artists wishing to make work about an inscription on a headstone or a person buried at Rookwood (other than their own family member) should contact the curator, Kath Fries curator@rookwoodcemetery.com.au to discuss their idea before submitting a proposal. In most cases permission for such use will have to be approved by Rookwood Cemetery Management.

Can I propose a personal work about someone in my family who has died?

Yes, we frequently have artworks about personal stories of loss.

Where can I find information about the history of Rookwood?

Information about Rookwood can be found:

- Online at <http://www.rookwoodcemetery.com.au/timeline>
- In the book *The Sleeping City: the story of Rookwood Necropolis*, 1989, ed David A. Weston
- On a historical tour with Friends of Rookwood. More information at:
 - <http://www.rookwoodcemetery.com.au/rookwood-cemetery-talks-and-tours>
 - <http://friendsofrookwoodinc.org.au>

Can I discuss my proposal idea before submitting my application?

Yes, artists are welcome to contact the curator, Kath Fries, curator@rookwoodcemetery.com.au to discuss their proposal idea before submitting their application.

My contact details have changed since I submitted my application form – how do I update them?

You can email the curator, Kath Fries, if your contact details change curator@rookwoodcemetery.com.au

