

## MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 1 March 2023

### **HIDDEN Rookwood Sculptures 2023 - seeking submissions from sculptors, schools and stonemasons**

Submissions for one of Sydney's most unique and culturally diverse sculpture exhibitions in the most unlikely of exhibition spaces, [HIDDEN Rookwood Sculptures 2023](#) (HIDDEN), are now open until 5 May 2023, with three key categories - Sculptures, Schools and Stonemasons.

HIDDEN, the free, outdoor annual exhibition at Rookwood General Cemetery (Rookwood) in South West Sydney, invites submissions from creatives of all ages, experiences and backgrounds.

For the first time in its 14-year history, HIDDEN is expanding to include the new Schools and Stonemasons categories.

HIDDEN Rookwood Sculptures Exhibition Curator, Dr Kath Fries said artists, stonemasons and apprentices, primary and secondary schools in Sydney and wider Sydney, are invited to propose a single work which responds to the context of Rookwood.

"We are looking for a broad span of works ranging from celebratory, big, bright, and colourful, through to personal, contemplative and thought provoking," Dr Fries said.

"All submissions will need to respond to themes which either explore Rookwood's contemporary relevance, diverse cultural practices, historical significance, celebration of life, personal stories, or evocative sense of place. Or one or more of the HIDDEN themes of contemplation, history, cultural diversity, cycle of life, death, grief, mourning, love and remembrance."

[HIDDEN Rookwood Schools](#) welcome entries from primary and secondary schools across all education sectors in Sydney and wider Sydney.

The experience aims to provide primary and secondary students with many positive and beneficial learning opportunities in areas of visual arts, history, society and culture, science, community and family studies and religious studies.

Students' work will be exhibited alongside professional artists, with a prize to the value of \$1000 for the winning school entry.

The inaugural [HIDDEN Rookwood Stonemason's](#) category encourages stonemasons and apprentices to enter a gothic architectural detail that showcases their traditional, finely honed, hand-carving skills of stonemasonry.

The Stonemasons Carving Competition will award a prize to the value of \$1000 to the winning HIDDEN Stonemason's entry.

[The HIDDEN Rookwood Sculptures](#) category invites entries from midcareer, established and emerging artists, collaborations and community groups across a wide range of artistic approaches, materials and forms; with a major \$10,000 Rookwood Sculpture Award for the winning sculpture.

Established in 2009, HIDDEN Rookwood Sculptures takes place amongst the pathways and gardens in one of the oldest sections of Rookwood Cemetery on Dharug Land, the largest and one of the most multicultural cemeteries in Australia, rich in heritage, tradition and tranquil parkland.

"Rookwood Cemetery is an ideal setting to engage the community through art and honour the site's diverse and important cultural history," Dr Fries said.

"I'm excited to again be curating this expansive exhibition, which will allow visitors to engage with creative arts in this unique place so integral to Australian history."

Applicants are welcome to discuss their proposal idea with HIDDEN Rookwood Exhibition Curator, Dr Kath Fries via email before submitting their entry:  
[curator@rookwoodcemetery.com.au](mailto:curator@rookwoodcemetery.com.au)

HIDDEN Rookwood Sculptures 2023 will take place at Rookwood Cemetery from 21 October to 19 November 2023.

Rookwood General Cemetery, located in Lidcombe, NSW is managed by the Office of [OneCrown Cemeteries](#), an NSW Government initiative entrusted to consolidate the management of four NSW Crown Land Managers, with the aim of delivering sustainable and affordable interment options to meet the ongoing needs of NSW's diverse communities and faith groups.

Ends

### **Media enquiries**

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