

Gloves beat McNuggets for rich sculpture prize

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A pair of gloves reshaped into anthropomorphised rabbits has pipped earrings made from McDonald's chicken nuggets and a shrine to a boiled egg to win a \$25,000 art prize.

The Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize has in its 23rd year been won by Hannah Gartside, whose *Bunnies in Love, Lust and Longing #19* used secondhand gloves, cast with cotton and wire, to continue a yearlong series themed around rabbit romance.



Hannah Gartside has won the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize 2024 with *Bunnies In Love, Lust and Longing #19*, made from secondhand gloves.

“The use of repurposed gloves imbues the sculpture with a sense of nostalgia and everyday intimacy, evoking tenderness and care,” said one of the three judges, Arts Project Australia director Liz Nowell.

“Despite its modest size, the work drew us in with its emotional depth, creating a powerful sense of connection and vulnerability.”

Held inside Sydney’s Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf, there were 59 finalists whittled from 751 entries for the acquisitive Small Sculpture Prize, which celebrates original sculptures up to 80 centimetres in any dimension.

Among the finalists were *Nuggets of Wisdom, Fries With That* by Tasmanian artist and jeweller Emma Bugg, featuring earrings made from McNuggets and McDonald’s packaging, and a necklace festooned with French Fries.

An NFC tag and an AI program allows the wearer to ‘speak’ with the nuggets, which have been treated so they don’t spoil. (Although the brooch made from a Big Mac that Bugg has displayed at Hobart’s [MONA](https://www.afr.com/life-and-luxury/arts-and-culture/mona-founder-david-walsh-says-the-museum-is-my-hotted-up-torana-20201120-p56gji) [https://www.afr.com/life-and-luxury/arts-and-culture/mona-founder-david-walsh-says-the-museum-is-my-hotted-up-torana-20201120-p56gji] has not been treated, and has not gone mouldy after 9 years - a tribute to the burger’s preservative levels.)

Another attention-grabbing finalist was Grace Lee’s *Limestone Cupboard For a Boiled Egg*, a shrine driven by, in the artist’s words, a “deep reverence for the

mundane". Yes, the egg is replaced every day.

Gartside said she was humbled by winning the \$25,000 prize.

"I use discarded, worn materials because I believe in their inherent worth and value. These materials act as portals for storytelling, and receptive vessels for emotional expression," she said.

"At times in my life I have felt devalued or discarded, and I made this work during one of those times...Have you ever heard the phrase, "the poem knows things the poet doesn't"? Well, this sculpture showed me what I needed: aloneness, rest, introspection, and quietude."



Emma Bugg was a finalist in 2024's Woollahra Small Sculpture prize with *Nuggets Of Wisdom, Fries With That*.

The other judges of the prize were Jarrod Rawlins, director of curatorial affairs at Museum of Old and New Art (Mona), and Erin Vink, curator, First Nations art (local and global) at Art Gallery of New South Wales.

The Woollahra Small Sculpture prize is on display now at Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf. [<https://sculptureprize.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/>]



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