



9 September 2013

## \$250,000 Southern Way McClelland Commission Announced

Artist **Gregor Kregar** has been awarded the \$250,000 **2015 Southern Way McClelland Commission**, for his monumental work, **Reflective Lullaby**, which will be installed at the end of April 2015.

This new sculpture will be installed along the Peninsula Link freeway in Melbourne's South East as part of a unique commitment to public art. It will replace Phil Price's sculpture **Tree of Life** that is located on the Cranbourne road site, on the Langwarrin exit ramp close to McClelland Sculpture Park+Gallery and the Mornington Peninsula.

'The third, in the unique and highly regarded series of Southern Way McClelland Commissions, has been awarded to the sculptor Gregor Kregar for his work, **Reflective Lullaby**, which will be both iconic and evocatively contemporary. As public sculpture this sculpture embodies an interesting social commentary on suburbia but above all it will be absolutely memorable - once seen, never forgotten,' says Robert Lindsay, Director, McClelland Sculpture Park+Gallery.

'I am extremely excited about the commission for the Southern Freeway', says artist Gregor Kregar. 'It is a great honour to make a large work for such a public site as well as the work being included into permanent collection of the McClelland Sculpture Park+Gallery after two years'.

This commission forms part of an ongoing program of new sculptures that will alternate every two years on the Peninsula Link Freeway, resulting in 14 commissions over 25 years (until 2037) with a total value in excess of \$4 million. Every two years until 2037 one new sculpture will be commissioned to alternate between sites at Skye Road and Cranbourne Road, along the new Peninsula Link freeway.

'Southern Way are extremely excited to be a part of and oversee the facilitation of the first sculpture renewal on Peninsula Link', says David Clements, General Manager, Southern Way. 'While we will be sorry to see the departure of the **Tree of Life** from the Cranbourne Rd interchange, which has received overwhelmingly positive support, we are very excited to see the installation of a new piece by Gregor Kregar.'

Clements adds, 'Gregor's sculpture has been selected from in excess of 100 submissions in response to the Peninsula Link competition and will be installed at the Cranbourne Road site in 2015. The **Tree of Life** will be removed and replaced with the new work by Gregor which is bound to generate thought and opinion. This is the first sculpture renewal which will see 14 sculptures in total displayed along Peninsula Link for a period of 4 years each prior to being donated to McClelland Sculpture Park+Gallery for permanent display.'

After a two year cycle of display on the Peninsula Link freeway these Southern Way McClelland Commissions will form part of McClelland's permanent sculpture collection.

The **Southern Way McClelland Commission** received 100 submissions from local, interstate and international artists. The commission judging panel was Robert Lindsay Director, McClelland Sculpture Park+Gallery, Kirsten Paisley, Director, Shepparton Art Museum; and sculptor Robert Bridgewater.

Gregor Kregar was born 1972 in Ljubljana, Slovenia and is based in Auckland, New Zealand and Berlin, Germany. He has undertaken many public commissions since the early 1990s, which include Clouds and Cumulous Pavilion for Richard Pearse at the Christchurch Airport (2013) and Twisting the Void 2 for

Cornish in Abu Dhabi (2010). Kregar has also been the recipient of a number of prestigious awards including the Paramount Prize, James Wallace Art Award (2000), The ANZ Private Bank and Art & Australia Contemporary Art Award (2009) and the Lexus Premier Award for Sculpture On The Gulf, New Zealand (2013).

Recent solo exhibitions include Dream House Project (Te Tuhi Centre for the Arts, Auckland New Zealand 2012) and Reflective Synthesis (Gow Langsford, Auckland New Zealand 2012). Recent group exhibitions include Pattern and Complexity (Royal Institute of Australia, Adelaide South Australia 2012) and Sculpture Today, Statues, Figures and Bodies (Muzej Sodobne Umetnosti, Celije Slovenia 2011). His work was included in the 2011 Cairo Biennial, Egypt and the 29th Ljubljana Biennale, Slovenia.

Funding for the sculptures is being donated by Southern Way, Abigroup and RBS (Royal Bank of Scotland).

Robert Lindsay, Director, McClelland Sculpture Park+Gallery; David Clements, General Manager Southern Way and artist Gregor Kregar are available for interview.

**McClelland Sculpture Park+Gallery, 390 McClelland Drive, Langwarrin.**

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