

## Tom Arthur

### Artist Statement

#### Parables of Relationships

It was Kierkegaard who said "Life must be lived forward but can only be understood backwards". The rewinding of my life experience makes it very clear that my work must have as its origins, the personal... I am what I do.

This process of identity formation began long before art making became art making. It began when doing things had more to do with keeping busy, passing time, filling in space...it was a time when practice really did make perfect.

As a child in school I became known as the one who could make things out of other things...the constructor of new meanings, the one who could draw.

In time, I came to realise just how these skills could be converted into a form of "hard social currency" akin to an alchemist's realisation of the ancient dream of transforming base matter into gold. It was to be later still that I would understand the power of these things to become a way in which to discover the story of my own mortality.

### Bio

A graduate of the School of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and Tuft's University, Tom Arthur is principally known as a conceptual installation artist, whose works incorporate a wide range of processes, materials and contextual sitings.

His work is included in many private and public collections and has been exhibited in Australia and abroad, including Project and Survey exhibitions at the Art Gallery of NSW and the National Gallery of Victoria, the Australian Perspecta, the Australian National Gallery, the Serpentine Gallery in London, the Luxembourg Gardens in Paris and in international biennales.

The installations are conceived of as self-contained entities, each a discreet chapter of an on-going "open narrative". The works are characterized by their conceptual, technical and formal complexity and by their critical engagement with the theorized and historically charged architectural spaces of the public art museum, exhibition space and gallery.

Recent works have extended these enquiries by focusing on the singular object's potential to become conduits for the generative workings of biography and memory, passion and mortality. They incorporate a wide range of materials and technical processes; from traditional ceramic shell bronze casting to electronically controlled kinetic systems.

# Stanley Street gallery

## CV

**Graduate** – The School of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Boston Massachusetts USA  
Tufts University, Medford Massachusetts USA

## Selected Exhibitions –

- 1975 Project 3 (with John Armstrong and Alex Danko), Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 1976 Untitled Site b, The Sculpture Centre, Sydney (commissioned installation)  
Recent Prints and Drawings, The Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 1978 Lost and Found: Objects and Images, The Ewing and George Paton Gallery, The University of Melbourne
- 1979 European Dialogue – The Third Biennale of Sydney, The Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney  
Survey 10 – Tom Arthur, The National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
- 1981 First Australian Perspecta, The Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney  
8 x 3 x 2 - Exhibition of Contemporary Sculpture, The Ivan Dougherty Gallery, The College of Fine Arts, The University of New South Wales, Sydney  
Rituals and Relics, The National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
- 1982 Eureka – Artists From Australia, The Serpentine Gallery and The Institute of Contemporary Art, London
- 1983 Goodbye Carpet, Goodbye Small Door, The Newcastle Region Art Gallery, Newcastle  
Attitudes to Drawing, The Ivan Dougherty Gallery, The College of Fine Arts, The University of New South Wales, Sydney  
Tom Arthur – 5 Works, The Wollongong City Art Gallery, Wollongong, New South Wales
- 1984 On Site, The Tasmanian School of Art, Hobart, Tasmania  
2D x 3D, The Erving Sculpture Gallery, Sydney
- 1986 Drawing Now, The Holdsworth Contemporary Galleries, Sydney
- 1987 The Entire Contents Of A Gentleman's Room, The University Gallery, The University of Melbourne,  
Australian Art 1960 – 1986, Field To Figuration, The National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne  
Partners in Crime, First Draft Exhibition Space, Sydney
- 1988 From The Southern Cross – A View On World Art c. 1940 – 1988, The Australian Bicentennial Biennale, Sydney  
Drawing In Australia: Drawings, Watercolours and Pastels from the 1770's – 1980's, The National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 1989 Drawings from The Collection Of The Art Gallery Of New South Wales, The Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 1991 Tom Arthur at Powell Street, Powell Street Gallery, Melbourne
- 1994 From Inside The Observatory - A New South Wales and Queensland regional Galleries Touring  
Exhibition: The Wollongong City Art Gallery, The Tamworth City Gallery, The Orange Regional Gallery, The Gold Coast City  
Tom Arthur, Apropos (3) Objets A, The Robert Lindsay Gallery, Melbourne  
The Beach Exhibition, The Museum of Modern Art at Heidi, Melbourne
- 1995 Asia And Oceania Influence, The Ivan Dougherty Gallery, The College of Fine Arts, The University of New South Wales,  
1995 Death – Insights On Life, National Regional Galleries Touring Exhibition in association with  
The Rookwood Necropolis, Sydney  
Like A Chair-Sized Man, The Robert Lindsay Gallery, Melbourne  
Works on Paper, The Robert Lindsay Gallery, Melbourne
- 1997 Phygenie's Eye, Artists In The House, Elizabeth Bay House Contemporary Art Installation Program, Historic Houses Trust, Sydney  
The Biggest Little Sculpture Show in Town, Annual Miniature Sculpture Show, Defiance Gallery, Sydney
- 1998 It's A Guitar Shaped World, The Tamworth Regional Art Gallery, Tamworth  
Outside Inside – Contemporary Sculpture, The Herman Black Gallery, The University of Sydney,  
Figure in the Landscape – Contemporary Sculpture, Defiance Gallery and King Street Gallery, Sydney
- 1999 ICARUS, Goulburn Regional Art Gallery - Regional Galleries of New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland Touring Exhibition  
PUREDEADBRIILLIANT – Performances and Readings curated by Ian Bell, The Wayside Theatre, Sydney  
Washington's Palms – SWELTER – Installations at the Palm House, The Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney  
Big Thoughts, Small Works, Annual Miniature Sculpture Show, Defiance Gallery, Sydney

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- 2000 Tribal Echo – Contemporary Sculptural Responses to Tribal Works from Indonesia, Micronesia and New Guinea, Oceanic Arts Gallery, Sydney  
Spookey – Ghosts, Spirits and the Uncanny, The Glen Eira City Gallery, Melbourne  
The Importance of Being Small, Annual Miniature Sculpture Show, Defiance Gallery, Sydney
- 2001 Sculpture 2001 – 5 Galleries, Access Contemporary Art Gallery, Sydney and The Campbelltown City Bicentennial Art Gallery, Campbelltown
- 2002 Sculpture 2002 – 12 Galleries, Campbelltown City Bicentennial Art Gallery, Campbelltown  
Small Wonders, Annual Miniature Sculpture Show, Defiance Gallery, Sydney
- 2003 A Modelled World, McClelland Gallery and Sculpture Park, Langwarrin, Victoria  
Love Letter to China: Drawings by 35 Australian Artists, The Ivan Dougherty Gallery, University of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2004 International Contemporary Drawing Art, Academy of Fine Arts, Xi'an; Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing; Academy of Fine Arts, Guangzhou, China  
l'invitation Au Voyage-les Artistes Pèrègrins, Artsenat International Sculpture Exhibition, Jardin du Luxembourg and the Orangerie du Sénat, Paris  
Sightseeing - Sydney College of the Arts and The Central Academy of Fine Art Exchange Exhibition, Sydney and Beijing,
- 2005 Fire Dreaming – University Art Gallery, The University of Sydney, Sydney  
The Butterfly Effect – The Australian Museum, (Festival of Sydney exhibition), Sydney
- 2006 McClelland Contemporary Sculpture Survey and Award, McClelland Gallery and Sculpture Park, Langwarrin Victoria
- 2008 Water Dreaming, University Gallery, The University of Sydney, Sydney  
Tom Arthur- The Fertilization of Drake Vullen's Cheese Pizza, Australian Collection Focus, The Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2012 Tiny Titans & Miniliths, 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Sculpture Show, Defiance Gallery, Sydney
- 2013 Divide & Context – Goulburn Regional Art Gallery Celebrates 30 Years, Goulburn Regional Art Gallery  
Maximus Minimus, 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Miniature Sculpture Exhibition, Defiance Gallery, Sydney
- 2014 Minumental, 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Miniature Sculpture Exhibition, Defiance Gallery, Sydney
- 2015 The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual 6 x 6 x 6 Miniature Sculpture Show, Defiance Gallery, Sydney
- 2016 TOM ARTHUR – Alone At Last, Defiance Gallery, Sydney  
UN LEG - Tom Arthur, Hany Armanious, Tully Arnot, Mitch Cairns, Lucas Ihlein, Stephen Ralph, curated by Nick Strike, Gallery 55, Sydney  
ART of PARTS - collage and assemblage from the collection of the Art Gallery of New South Wales, curated by Helen Campbell, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

## Selected Publications

- 1975 Project Three – Robert Lindsay, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney Australia (exhibition catalogue)  
Australian Painting 1970 – 1975, Kim Bonython, Rigby Publishing, Sydney Australia
- 1976 W.Thomas Arthur, Robert Lindsay, Art and Australia, Vol. 14 No.2
- 1978 Lost and Found: Objects and Images, Ewing and George Patton Galleries, The University of Melbourne, (exhibition catalogue)
- 1979 Sameness Amidst Flux / Private Amidst Public, Tom Arthur, European Dialogue – The Third Biennale of Sydney (exhibition catalogue)
- 1979 The Sydney Biennale, Elwyn Lynn, Art International, Vol. XXIII Nos. 3 and 4  
The Third Biennale of Sydney 1979, Nick Waterlow, Flash Art, Nos.90 and 91  
Tom Arthur – Survey 10, Robert Lindsay, The National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne (exhibition catalogue and video tape in conjunction with Open Channel)
- 1980 Australian Art in the 1970's, Arthur McIntyre, The Visual Arts, Jacaranda Press, Sydney  
Australian Sculptors, Ken Scarlett, Nelson Publishing, Melbourne Australia  
European Dialogue – A Commentary, The Third Biennale of Sydney, The Art Gallery of

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- 1981 New South Wales, Sydney Australia  
A Report From Australia, Suzi Gablik, Art in America, January No. 1  
Australian Perspecta 1981, Bernice Murphy, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney Australia  
(exhibition catalogue)  
Rituals and Relics, Robert Lindsay, The National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia  
(exhibition catalogue)
- 1982 Eureka – Artists From Australia, The Serpentine Gallery and The Institute of Contemporary Art,  
London (exhibition catalogue)  
Goodbye Carpet...Goodbye Small Door, Tom Arthur and Tony Maniaty, Newcastle Region Art Gallery, Newcastle NSW  
(exhibition catalogue)  
40 Ans d' Art en Australie, Nancy Underhill, Art Press No. 74, Paris, France
- 1984 On Site, Jonathon Holmes, Tasmanian College of Art, Hobart (exhibition catalogue)
- 1985 An Assembled View of Sculpture, Robert Lindsay, Anything Goes – Art In Australia 1970 –1980  
Edited by Paul Taylor, Melbourne  
The Entire Contents of a Gentleman's Room – On Site, Annette Van den Bosh, Art Network, Sydney
- 1986 Oz Drawing Now, Arthur McIntyre, The Holdsworth Contemporary Galleries, Sydney Australia
- 1987 Australian Art 1960 – 1986: Field To Figuration, Robert Lindsay, The National Gallery of  
Victoria, Melbourne (exhibition catalogue)  
Put Your Face on the Burning Sand...Peripheral Ambience and Kinetic Integrity in Tom Arthur's Assemblages and  
Installations, Urszula Szulakowska, The Entire Contents of a Gentleman's Room,  
The University Gallery, The University of Melbourne (exhibition catalogue)
- 1988 Australian Contemporary Drawing – Resurgence and Redefinition, Arthur McIntyre, Boolarong Press,  
Queensland  
Antipodean Antecedents: An Accent on the Present, Frances Lindsay, From The Southern Cross...A View of World Art c.  
1940 – 1988, Australian Biennale (exhibition catalogue)  
Tom Arthur, From The Southern Cross...A View of World Art c. 1940 – 1988, Urszula Szulakowska, Australian Biennale  
(exhibition catalogue)  
Contemporary Australian Collage and Its Origins, Arthur McIntyre, Craftsman House Publications, Sydney
- 1994 From Inside The Observatory - Dialogue with the Artists, Paul Walton, Wollongong City Art  
Gallery (exhibition catalogue)  
Notes Apropos Three Objects by Tom Arthur, Jacques Delaruelle, Robert Lindsay Gallery, Melbourne  
(exhibition catalogue)  
Flotsam and Jetsam – The Beach Exhibition, Juliana Engberg, The Museum of Contemporary Art at  
Heidi, Melbourne, Australia (exhibition catalogue)
- 1995 Asia and Oceania Influence, Nick Waterlow, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, College of Fine Arts,  
University of New South Wales, Sydney (exhibition catalogue)
- 1996 Death – Insights On Life, Eileen Chanin, National Touring Exhibition in association with the  
Rookwood Necropolis, Sydney (exhibition catalogue)  
The Magnificent Seven Deadlies, Phillip Kent, Death – Insights On Life, National Touring Exhibition in association with  
the Rookwood Necropolis, Sydney (exhibition catalogue)  
What is the life behind things? Nicholas Jose, Art Link – Australian Contemporary Art Quarterly, Vol.16 No.4 Summer  
Edition
- 1997 Phygenie's Eye, Tom Arthur, Artists In The House, Elizabeth Bay House Contemporary Art  
Installation Program, Historic Houses Trust, Sydney (exhibition catalogue)
- 1999 ICARUS, Jennifer Lamb, Goulburn Regional Gallery - Regional Galleries of New South Wales  
touring exhibition (exhibition catalogue)
- 2003 A Perfect Circle, Common Food – Anne Rochette, Tom Arthur, publication in association with  
The Maison de la Culture d'Amiens and Association Francaise d' Action Artistique- Ministere des Affaires Etrangères,  
Amiens France (exhibition catalogue)
- 2004 l'invitation au voyage-les artistes pèrègrins, Evelyn Artaud and Martine Bercovy, Artsénat International Sculpture  
Exhibition, Jardin du Luxembourg and the Orangerie du Sénat, Paris France  
(exhibition catalogue)  
L'avant...de l'Exposition; l'invitation Au Voyage-les Artistes Pèrègrins, le Film avec les 30 Artistes de l' Exposition,  
Claude Yvans, ARTSENAT 2004, Film and DVD

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- Sightseeing, Sioux Garside, Sydney College of the Arts and The Central Academy of Fine Art Exchange Exhibition, Sydney Australia and Beijing China [exhibition catalogue]  
Fire Dreaming, Sioux Garside, University Gallery, The University of Sydney, [exhibition catalogue]  
2005 The Butterfly Effect, Michael Goldberg, Tom Arthur, [Festival of Sydney exhibition] The Australian Museum, Sydney, [exhibition catalogue]  
2006 McClelland Contemporary Sculpture Survey and Award, Robert Lindsay, McClelland Gallery and Sculpture Park, Langwarrin Victoria [exhibition catalogue]  
Water Dreaming, Sioux Garside, University Gallery, The University of Sydney, [exhibition catalogue]  
2008 The Metamorphosis of Being, Tom Arthur- The Fertilization Of Drako Vulen's Cheese Pizza, Denise Mimmocchi, Assistant Curator, Australian Art, The Art Gallery of New South Wales, [exhibition Catalogue]  
2011 Alchemy In Contemporary Art, [Chapter 9 - Australian art and the esoteric tradition]  
Urszula Szulakowska, Ashgate Publishing Ltd, Surrey England  
2013 Divide and Context – Goulburn Regional Art Gallery Celebrates 30 Years, Jane Cush and Jennifer Lamb Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, Goulburn, New South Wales, Australia [exhibition catalogue]  
2016 Tom Arthur, Lucy Stranger, Artist Profile – [Issue 37 pgs 94 – 99] Nextmedia Pty Ltd, Sydney

## Selected Scholarships, Awards, Fellowships, Residencies

- 1965 Ford Foundation Grant  
1966 Mary O.H. Longstreth Scholarship, The School of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts  
1967 Mary Ripley Scholarship, The School of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts  
1969 Clarissa Bartlett Travelling Scholarship for Graduates, Boston Museum of Fine Arts  
1981 Australia Council Standard Grant, Visual Arts / Crafts Board  
1989 Australia Council Professional Development for Artists Fellowship, Visual Arts / Craft Board  
1996 Visiting Fellow, Four Sculptors Program, School of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts - Boston  
2003 Artist in residence, the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts – Paris  
2004 Visiting Professor, the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts - workshop program with students from the ateliers of Anne Rochette and Richard Deacon.  
2004 Artist in residence, Centre International d'Accueil et d' Echanges des Récollets, sponsored by the City of Paris and the French Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts  
2009 The Lady Nock Sculpture Prize, Defiance Galleries annual 6x6x6 Inch Miniature Sculpture Exhibition – Sydney  
2013 The Lady Nock Sculpture Prize, Defiance Galleries annual 6x6x6 Inch Miniature Sculpture Exhibition [Maximus Minimus]- Sydney

## Representation in Private and Public Collections

Private Collections in the United States, Europe, Asia and Australia  
The Australian National Gallery, Canberra  
The Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney  
The National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne  
The Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide  
The Newcastle Region Art Gallery, Newcastle  
The University of Tasmania, Hobart  
The Sydney College of the Arts, The University of Sydney  
The Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, Goulburn  
Art Bank, Sydney