

# north sydney

# THE ART TOP PRIZE

## 2017 BRIEF

### EXHIBITION DATE

11 – 26 March

### EXHIBITION SITE

The Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability  
2 Balls Head Drive, Waverton

### SELECTION PANEL

#### Dr Oliver Watts

Artist & Senior Lecturer, Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney

#### Monica McMahon

Art Curator, Western Sydney University Art Collection, Western Sydney University

#### Cassandra Hard Lawrie

Artist & Independent Curator

### EXHIBITION MANAGER & CURATOR

#### Alison Clark

Team Leader Arts & Culture, North Sydney Council

The North Sydney Art Prize will be held at the iconic Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability in Waverton. This unique site enables broad participation and accommodates the inclusion of all mediums. Indoor and outdoor works will be selected and exhibited in the Caretakers Cottage, Artist Studio, Workshop, Mess Hall and across the grounds to include the Coal Loader tunnel. Installation and site specific works are encouraged and will be sited in consultation with the Curator.

### CURATORIAL THEME

The 2017 curatorial theme encourages artists to consider the overarching principles of the exhibition site at the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability. The Coal Loader Centre opened in 2011 as a major regional community resource and was transformed from an old industrial site to a place where you can be inspired by best-practice sustainable technology, community gardens, native bush nursery and regenerated parklands.

The Coal Loader showcases innovation and serves as a community hub for Council's extensive range of environmental and sustainability programs. Located within the bushland of Balls Head Reserve and adjacent to historic Berry Bay, the Coal Loader is a site of both remarkable industrial heritage and environmental sustainability.

Artists are required to respond to **one** of the following:

- address a local or global issue broadly related to the curatorial theme (such as mass production, consumer culture, food technology, climate change, environmental, cultural, social and/or economic sustainability for example). Artists can address the theme through a **conceptual OR material** approach to their practice;
- respond to a cultural, historical, social or metaphorical aspect of the Coal Loader site;
- respond to a particular physical feature of the Coal Loader such as the harbour foreshore, regenerated parklands or surrounding bushland, readapted dwellings or disused tunnels.

The curatorial theme embraces innovation and diversity in contemporary art and provides an entry point into the many conversations about our complex relationship with the world around us. Importantly, it is a timely reminder of our individual and collective responsibility in an increasingly finite environment.