



September 8, 2016

Melbourne sculptor wins 9th annual Tesselaar Sculpture Prize

Fatih Semiz's sculpture *Transition* was announced winner of the 2016 Tesselaar Sculpture Prize, at the opening of the Tesselaar Tulip Festival today.

Mr Semiz is a Melbourne based sculptor with works displayed both here and overseas. Originating from Turkey, Mr Semiz completed a degree in Fine Art (Sculpture) at the Mimar Sinan University in Istanbul. He moved to Australia to take up an artist in residence position in Melbourne and became an Australian citizen in 2010.

Much of Mr Semiz's recent work reflects an interest in geometric sequential forms and the patterns found in the natural world.

"I enjoy exploring the notion of timelessness and the infinite, and in much of my work the spaces are as important to the viewing as the solid areas.

I build in any medium using basic geometry, straight lines and repetition of units, usually in a minimalist way. I enjoy the challenge of using mathematical notions to tell narrative and stories. *Transition* represents just that.....*a moment in time....*," said Mr Semiz.

Run in conjunction with the Association of Sculptors Victoria, the Tesselaar Sculpture Prize is an acquisitive prize and one of the richest in the state, valued at \$10,000.

Paul Tesselaar, director of the Tesselaar Tulip Festival, congratulates all the participating finalists in this year's Tesselaar Sculpture Prize, in particular the winner Fatih Semiz.

"We are forever mindful of the extraordinary amount of time and effort put into creating and producing works for this exhibition.

It is the sculptors' enthusiasm, devotion and adherence to their creative energy that allows this event to be so exhilarating and inspiring," said Mr Tesselaar.

Each sculpture is judged using a range of criteria from the visually impressive to innovation in style. They have an enduring nature and will ultimately complement the existing collection of works at Tesselaar and surrounding environment which, for a month of the year consists of over 800,000 tulips in flower!



Exhibition curator, Mark Cowie, is thrilled with the number of high quality sculptures entered into the Tesselaar Sculpture Prize for 2016.

“This year’s exhibition showcases different artistic styles and creative talent, and includes work from some well-known and highly regarded Australian sculptors, along with a number of talented emerging artists,” said Mr Cowie.

The Tesselaar Sculpture Exhibition is open for the duration of the Tesselaar Tulip Festival, September 8 – October 4, in Silvan. For a full program of events visit www.tulipfestival.com.au

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Image: *Transition* by Fatih Semiz

For further information or high res images of the Tesselaar Tulip Festival please contact:
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