

Press Release: Adelaide Sister City Public Art Project

By: Deborah McCormick, Director - Art & Industry Biennial Trust

Tel: 365 7990, Fax: 365 7994, Email: artandindustry@xtra.co.nz

The Adelaide Sister City Public Art project was conceived as a signifier of the Sister City relationship between Christchurch and Adelaide. An Adelaide artist has been commissioned to produce a public artwork for the Adelaide Sister City Garden in Halswell Quarry; and it is planned that a Christchurch artist would likewise be commissioned to produce a work for an Adelaide public space.

The project is being developed and managed by a member of the Christchurch Adelaide Sister City Committee Deborah McCormick Director of the Art & Industry Biennial Trust in consultation with Richard Brecknock of Brecknock Consulting, Adelaide Australia.

Richard Brecknock has supplied a shortlist of Adelaide artists, two of who were invited to respond to a brief with stage one designs for an artwork in the Sister City Garden.

From these responses Karen Genoff's proposal for Entrance Markers (working title) has been selected.

Karen Genoff lives and works in Adelaide. She graduated with a Bachelor of Education in Fine Art at the University of South Australia in Underdale and works part time as an Art teacher. Karen has enjoyed a professional Arts practice for 26years and has many solo exhibitions and public art projects to her credit There have been several large public commissions in and around Adelaide and she also represents her country with work near the Australian Embassy in Tokyo.

Karen Genoff's Sculptures for the Christchurch - Adelaide Sister City Gardens at Halswell Quarry will exist as two bronze spherical, patterned markers 600 mm in diameter. The surface patterning on these markers will be achieved by utilising some of the most striking eucalypt pods collected from around the Adelaide Parkland and Linear Park Environs. The markers will aim to capture something of the beauty, geometry and symmetry of two very striking eucalypts (Eucalyptus Erythrecorus and Eucalyptus Cornuta) Whilst these eucalypts are not strictly indigenous to Adelaide they are abundantly planted throughout the Parkland Environment, Linear Park and the suburbs around Adelaide and they attract many native birds.

The markers are designed to be mounted at viewing height onto simple low plinths made from the local Halswell Quarry stone are designed to be touched and the detail and surface patterning explored at viewing height.

The artist will visit Christchurch in May 2002 with a view towards installing the artwork in Halswell Quarry by late November 2002.