

SWELL SCULPTURE FESTIVAL 2011

Monumental art by the seashore



Studios all over the country are currently a hive of activity as sculptors prepare for Queensland's largest outdoor exhibition, Swell Sculpture Festival.

The ninth annual Swell Sculpture Festival will transform the Currumbin foreshore for ten days from September 9 with up to 50 large scale sculptures.

Set between Currumbin's two headlands, Swell annually attracts crowds in excess of 175,000 over the ten day exhibition period.

Swell Sculpture Festival Director Natasha Edwards said, "Swell is well established and recognised as a major cultural arts event in Queensland. The picturesque Currumbin Beach and warm weather makes for an ideal setting and backdrop for the extraordinary diverse range of sculptures on display. People attend the exhibition to soak up the atmosphere, photograph the moment and engage with the artwork in its natural setting. The artist talks offer an opportunity meet with artists, exchange stories and learn more about the artist behind the sculpture. Swell is an iconic event that is sure to impress and inspire people of all ages"

Currumbin's iconic Elephant Rock and foreshore will form the backdrop for the extensive 2011 exhibition that will include John Fitzmaurice's large scale stainless steel wishbone *You Wish*.

Visitors will enjoy the upscaled wishbone *You Wish*, a monocoque sculpture inspired by the natural shape and sensual lines of a wishbone. The construction technique has utilised the polished stainless steel external skin to support the organic form. Through the use of polished stainless steel, and the over scaling of the piece, *You Wish*, is transformed into a modern abstract interpretation of an organic form.

If there is one certainty in life - it's that nothing lasts forever. Nature reminds us of this undeniable fact again and again, through the changing of seasons and endless cycle of life. Despite man's obsession with his immortality, the only eternal truth that we have is that life continues - but only through endless renewal and rebirth. This is the inspiration behind Cezary Stuglis' welded stainless steel piece "The Rebirth".

Acclaimed artists Pat Hoffie and Stefan Purcell are collaborating on a large scale wood, canvas and mixed media creation called "War Ears". An instrument, the piece is a response to the current global climate of unrest. It offers a tiny hope for staying afloat amidst the rumblings of earthquakes and the surges of tsunamis. The materials are bound together by hope and a wish, and are floated on the pontoons of the improbable.

Queensland based artist Richard Howie finds endless inspiration in nature. For Swell Sculpture Festival 2011 he explores the dynamic structure of the anemone with a beautiful work made from stainless steel rods.

This is just a small sample of the great variety of work that will be exhibited this year. Visitors can take in this outdoor exhibition of large scale sculptured pieces for 10 days – **all for free**.

Visit during the day and stay on for the magic of a twilight viewing. As the sun sets each evening, selected pieces will be transformed as they light up under the southern sky.

Participating artists will vie for an acquisition and awards up to \$30,000. The Gold Coast City Council's annual \$20,000 acquisition provides a lasting legacy for the residents of the Gold Coast. Others include The Dux Lighting Environmental Awareness Award and Currumbin Beach Vikings SLSC People's Choice and School of Humanities Griffith University Kids' Choice Awards a way for the visiting public to vote for their favourite.

Around 175,000 people visit the Swell Sculpture Festival each year to view the splendour that large sculpture in a beach setting offers. To compliment this, the **Swell Smalls Gallery** located at *The Way of Design Gallery* on the Currumbin beachfront, allow visitors to experience sculpture at an intimate and affordable level.

In addition to the exhibition, visitors can extend their experience with guided **twilight walks**, **artists' talks** throughout the exhibition, **master classes** for visitors to sculpt their own piece and a **public art forum** on *Appropriation* exploring topics within a public art context.

StreetSWELL a new initiative in 2011 will see the surrounding village of Tugun transform into a cultural offshoot, with up to 20 sculptures on display in and around local shop fronts, cafes and restaurants in the Tugun Village by participating artists from the Sculptors Society Gold Coast. Vintage and emerging designer **fashion markets** presented by The Village Markets will feature on Sunday 11th September in Beilby Street Tugun. Due to popular demand the expansion of the **Master Classes** will now be held in the Tugun Progress Hall with invited artist Col Henry, all topped off with sounds from local **musicians** on both weekends.

StreetSWELL will feature a large sand sculpture display where children can indulge in workshops along Tugun Beach making their own sculpture. Dining will become a whole new experience with a variety of music and entertainment in and around the restaurants, cafes and streets of Tugun during the 10 days of Swell.

As part of the **Swell Kids' Program**, sculpted totems to support the message of "dune care" will be made as a collaborative project between artist Marie-France Boissonneault and students from Southern Gold Coast primary schools. The completed artwork will invite the audience to consider the liminal spaces and engage the audience to reflect on what crosses between these spaces and how we can identify these areas that need to be protected.

During the weekends, budding young sculptors visiting can participate in the **Swell Kids' Workshops** at the Currumbin Nippers Club.

Following the successful of **Bush to Beach Project** in 2010, Swell Sculpture Festival's Regional Engagement Program will continue to inspire a group of school children from remote **Lockhart River Primary School** in the Cape. The students have been creating sculpture in their community and look forward to visiting the exhibition in September where they will participate in the Swell Kids workshops and engage with a selection of the artists, for the **Cape to Coast Project**.

Gourmet BBQs on the weekends will tantalise the tastebuds or visitors can choose casual dining at local cafes and restaurants. Pack a picnic and plan to stay for the day!

The 10 day exhibition opens to the public on Friday, 9th September and closes the Sunday 18th September.

PARKING:

As weekend viewing is very popular visitors are encouraged to use the **Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary Car Park** for a flat day rate of \$5 with all proceeds going to support the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital Foundation –Swell Sculpture Festival's Charity of Choice. (National Trust Green Guardian members will continue to enjoy free parking.)

Another option is to jump on the **FREE Swell Shuttle Bus** departing from the Palm Beach Currumbin High School, Thrower Drive between 9am – 4pm where visitors can park in this area and ride to and from the exhibition with ease.

For event information and updates please refer the public to www.swellsculpture.com.au

Media enquiries please contact:

Gabe Cramb @ Scrabble PR

gabe@scrabble.net.au

0419 798 995

The Swell Sculpture Festival is benefiting from funding received under the Events Queensland Regional Development Program (EQRDP). The EQRDP is an investment program designed to extend the flow of economic and social benefits of events to regional Queensland. A state-wide initiative, the program is committed to enhancing existing events in regional Queensland, as well as assisting in the establishment of new events. Since the EQRDP began in 2001, more than \$17.5 million has been invested in 815 regional events, an indicator of the important role these events play in their communities and wider Queensland.

2011 PARTNERS & SPONSORS

