

Meeting 1 named as Sculpture by the Sea people's choice

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AWARDED: Wang Shugang's Meeting 1 has been named the people's choice at the Sculpture by the Sea 2012. Picture: Supplied Source: Supplied Source: Supplied



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A SCULPTURE of eight red men crouching in a circle was today announced the people's choice of the Sculpture by the Sea exhibition in Cottesloe in the closest competition yet.

Leading Beijing artist Wang Shugang was awarded the \$2,500 prize for the sculpture 'meeting 1'.

The sculpture was on display alongside 70 other sculptures during a 19 day exhibition at Cottesloe Beach.

Chinese artist Wang Shugang is a graduate from the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing and has exhibited widely in China, America and Europe.

His prize winning sculpture seeks to convert the serious nature of meetings, as an influence on the way of thinking, the psyche and the consciousness of people into an exhilarating memorial.

The NAB Kid's Choice Prize of \$1,000 was awarded to collaborators ELIN&KEINO made up of Finnish artists Heini Nieminen and Sandra Nyberg for their sculpture 'punctured sky'.

The site specific work, an arched tunnel with peeping holes to the sky, was put together on Cottesloe Beach by the artists at the beginning of the exhibition, taking days to install in front of the eyes of visitors.

Thousands of locals and tourists voted for their favourite sculpture when they flocked to Cottesloe Beach to see the collection of over 70 original sculptures from around the world.

Founding director of Sculpture by the Sea, David Handley, said: "The response from the people of Perth to the exhibition has been extraordinary, including the outpouring of disbelief and shock at the damage to Chen Wenling's sculpture."

"It is wonderful to give people the chance to vote for their favourite sculptures, and is something the artists take a lot of pride in, when they're voted most popular.

"This year has been the closest in terms of votes for three - four sculptures I can remember, so congratulations to Wang Shugang, Heini Nieminen and Sandra Nyberg."

This year, marked the 8th annual Sculpture by the Sea exhibition, Perth's largest free outdoor art exhibition.

Thirty-one West Australian artists exhibited their works on Cottesloe beach alongside 22 interstate Australian artists and 21 prestigious international sculptors including Keizo Ushio and Zero Higashida from Japan, Steinunn Thorarinsdottir from Iceland and Wang Shugang and Chen Wenling from China.

Earlier this month WA artist Paul Caporn was announced as the recipient of the NAB WA Sculptor Scholarship of \$15,000 for his sculpture 'dump'.

WA artist Elaine Clocherty was awarded the Andrea Stretton Memorial Invitation including prize money \$5,000, and an invitation to exhibit at Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi 2012 for her work 'belonging', and ACT artist Michael Le Grand was awarded the Sculpture Inside Curator's Prize of \$1,500 for his indoor work 'salut.'

Sculpture by the Sea is a trans-national series of exhibitions with sister exhibitions held along the Bondi to Tamara coastal walk in Sydney from 18 October - 4 November 2012 and Aarhus, Denmark in June 2013.