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Paddington 2021
NSW, Australia

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DOMINIC WELCH



DOMINIC WELCH

including selected works by
Bridget McCrum

10 APRIL - 4 MAY 2019

PREVIEW 9 APRIL 6.30pm

MESSUMS | 12 MARY PLACE
PADDINGTON 2021 | NSW | AUSTRALIA



Foreword

Dominic Welch first appeared on the Australian Art scene with a large Kilkenny limestone sculpture *Sentinel* that was selected for Sculpture by the Sea, Sydney in 2004. It was an iconic and logistically challenging piece to place on the coastal walk between Bondi Beach and Tamarama Bay and readily found a permanent home.

His last show in Australia was in 2013. There was no great body of work - just a selection of beautifully and painstakingly crafted sculptures in stone and some in bronze that were hand delivered and installed through New South Wales, Victoria and Southern Australia.

There is a level of application to the process of sculpting in stone when it becomes philosophic. The material is so intransient that you have to enter into a relationship of your time for its movement. You also can never retrace your steps in the event of a mistake because the process is reductive, each mark removes something that can never be replaced, much like the minutes that mark off time.

Dominic's career, entering it's 30th year, is now marked by an increasingly impressive collection of major works in Kilkenny limestone, Carrara marble and bronze. They have begun to find themselves in collections around the world, including more recently; Toronto, the pacific coast of Mexico and several recent acquisitions in New Zealand. But his wanderlust and the appreciation of his works started here in Sydney.

British stone carving has an exceptional legacy and it is a pleasure to show with Dominic the work of Bridget McCrum. There is a language of stone carving that joins the two sculptors together. Both allow the stone to lead their concept to its own conclusion. The effect is to feel very clearly their intent in sympathy with the material.

Johnny Messum



DOMINIC WELCH

Continually evolving his distinct sense of abstraction, Welch realises solid, yet fluid forms in Kilkenny limestone, Ancaster Weatherbed, Carrara marble and bronze. Rooted in the natural world, his purity of form is inspired by the organic logic of seeds, pods, shells and fish, suggesting natural harmonies that both calm the senses and spark the imagination.

“The taut, sleek shapes of Dominic Welch’s sculpture, poised on the point of a curve, seem to defy gravity. The stone that he uses is dense and massively heavy, but his sculpture is all about impetus, uplift, resurgence... Welch’s sculpture embodies feelings that are unnameable but as recognisable as feelings experienced when looking at a full moon or the delicate new growth of plants.”

- *Jenny Pery*

Welch trained under Peter Randall-Page, and shares his admiration for Brancusi’s bold, expressive distillation of form. After twenty-five years, Welch has honed a style that is sympathetic with, and yet proceeds from, this tradition and his sculptures have been exhibited throughout Britain, North America, Japan, Taiwan and Australia.



1 Blue Angel IV

Kilkenny limestone

h 68 x w 122 x d 20cm

2 Carrara Moon VI

Carrara marble

h 96 x w 98 x d 8cm





3 Aeolian Sphere III

Kilkenny limestone
h 48 x w 48 x d 48cm



4 Silent Moon XI

Bronze - edition of 9
h 72 x w 72 x d 5cm



5 Meditation Stone VII

Carrara marble

h 103 x w 64 x d 12cm



6 Silent Moon

Bronze - edition of 11

h 34 x w 37x d 5cm



7 Foliate

Kilkenny limestone
h 106 x w 32 x d 12cm





8 Quintessent

Kilkenny limestone

h 100 x w 16 x d 15cm



9 Carrara Angel VIII

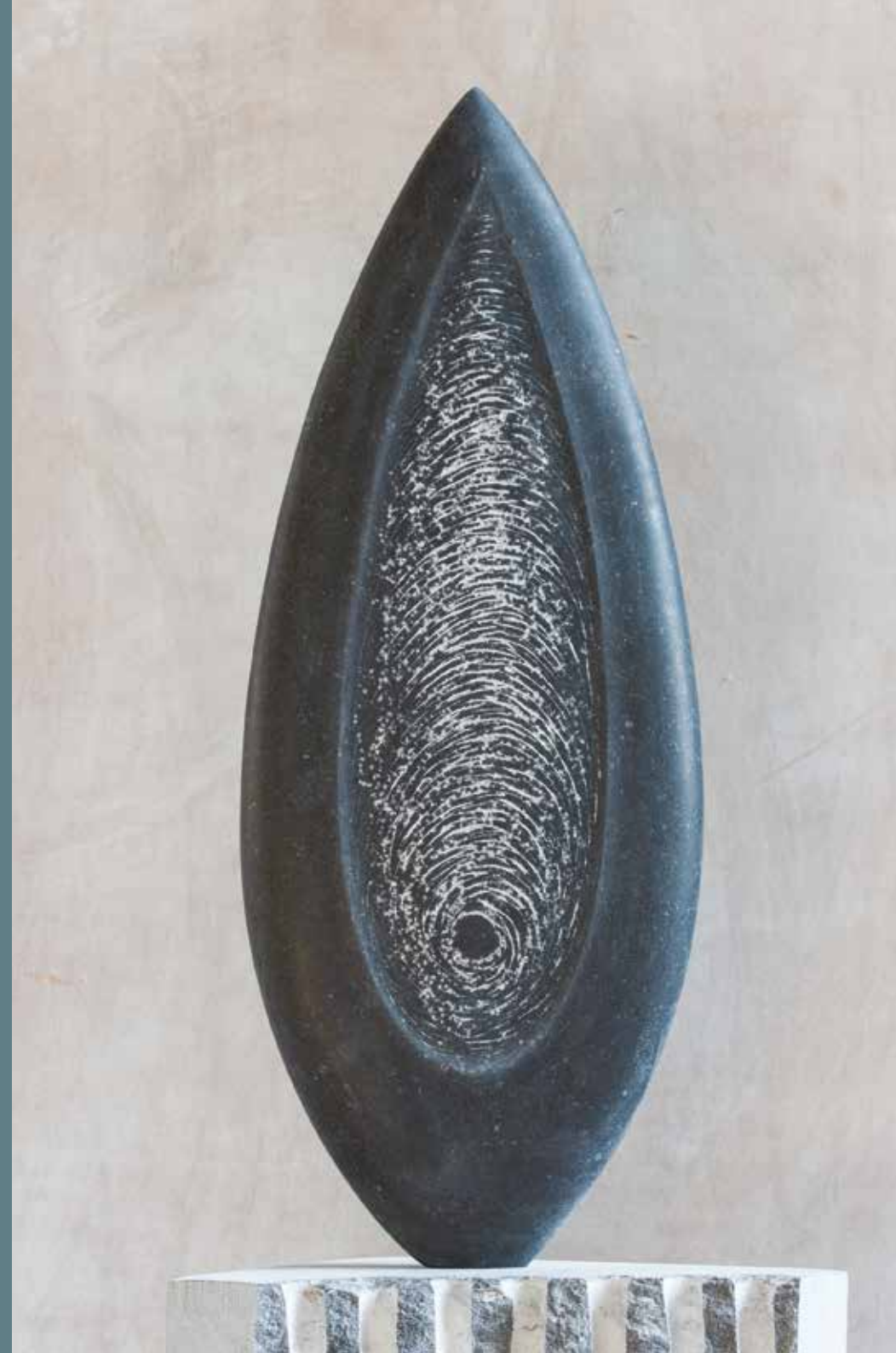
Carrara marble

h 39 x w 64 x d 14cm



10 **Embryonic Form**
Bronze, edition of 11
h 32 x w 32 x d 4cm

11 **Ionian Eye**
Kilkenny limestone
h 75 x w 29 x d 6cm





12 Dorsalis

Bronze, edition of 11
h 42 x w 35 x d 7cm



13 Swallowtail Form

Bronze, edition of 11
h 20 x w 61 x d 5cm



BRIDGET McCRUM

“Bridget’s figures, animal and bird sculptures were economically carved, capturing the essential characteristics of their nature or habit, a subject may appear to be soft, although the profile would be sharp as her sense of curve and rhythm – still her hallmarks – tell of form as well as the incongruity to be found in birds or beasts.”

- Ann Elliott, author of *‘Touch and Time: The Sculpture and Drawings of Bridget McCrum’*

McCrum’s work is a potent fusion of the ancient with the modern. She works primarily in stone, from which some pieces are also cast in bronze. Initially influenced by archaeological finds and by the work of Brancusi, Hepworth and Moore, her sculpture also contains oblique references to the landscape and fauna around her homes in Devon and Gozo. The basis of her work is a lyrical abstraction of living forms, a process after which only the primary elements of her animals and birds remain identifiable.

McCrum was born in 1934 and went on to train as a painter with Lesjek Musjynski at Farnham School of Art in the 1950s. From 1980 she began to work primarily in stone, having learned her craft from John Joeku and Andrea Schulewitz on the South Downs. McCrum also works with bronze, a metal she uses to cast many of her stone pieces.



Bridget McCrum
14 Crescent Birds
 Bronze - edition of 6
 h 70 x w 70 x d 20cm



Bridget McCrum
15 Eclipse
 Bronze, edition of 9
 h 105 x w 42 x d 17cm



Bridget McCrum
16 Zenobia
 (Homage to Palmyra)
 Bronze
 h 33 x w 31 x d 18cm



Bridget McCrum
17 Blade
 Bronze
 h 88 x w 37 x d 6cm



Bridget McCrum

18 Colly Birds

Bronze - edition of 9
h 18 x w 36 x d 38cm



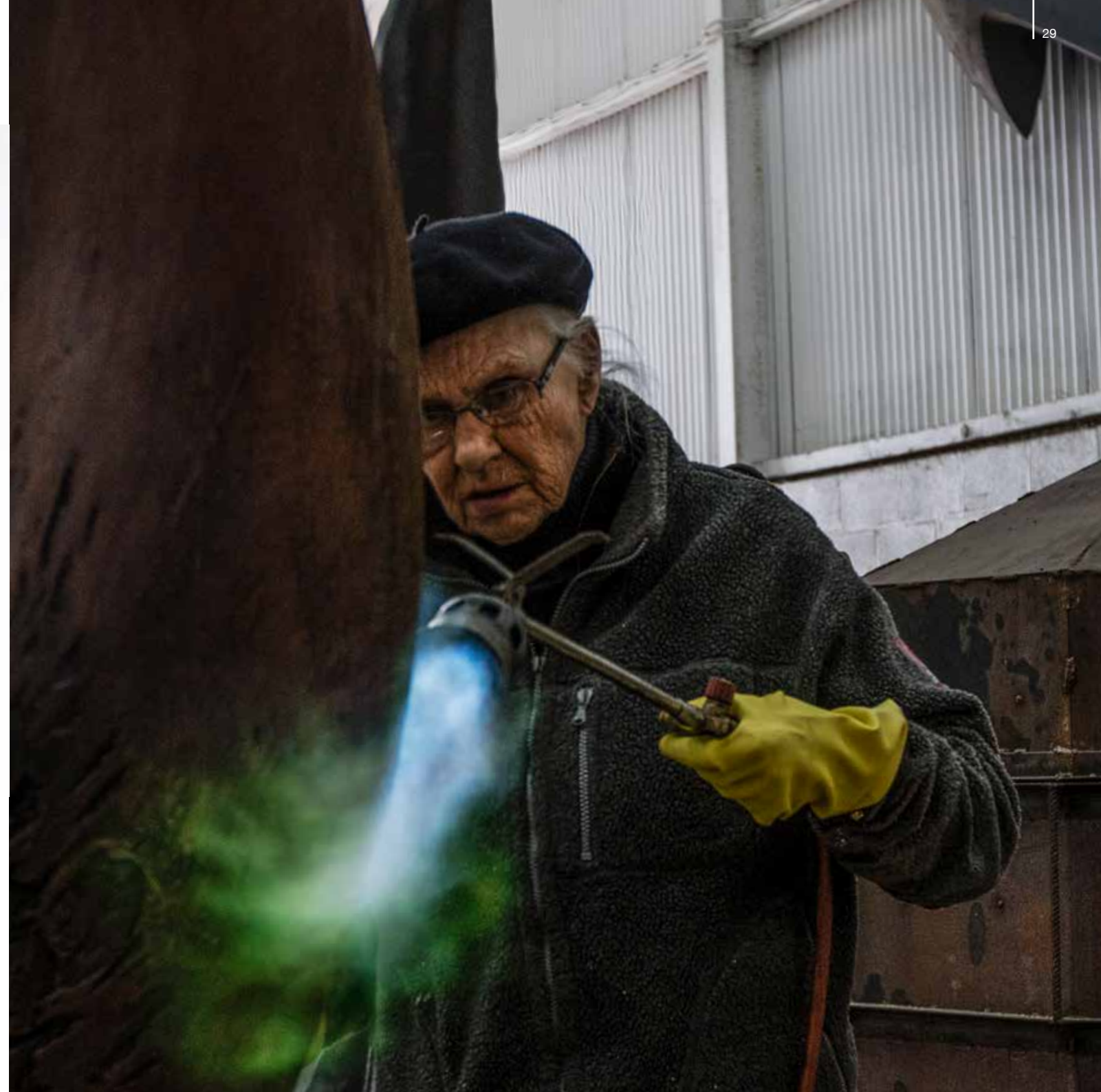
Bridget McCrum

19 Spring Bird

Bronze - edition of 9
h 42 x w 11 x d 18cm



Bridget McCrum
20 Longtail Bird
Bronze - edition of 9
h 13 x w 15 x d 43cm



Dominic Welch

1 Blue Angel IV

Kilkenny limestone
h 68 x w 122 x d 20cm
\$41,850

2 Carrara Moon VI

Carrara marble
h 96 x w 98 x d 8cm
\$33,500

3 Aeolian Sphere III

Kilkenny limestone
h 48 x w 48 x d 48cm
\$27,850

4 Silent Moon XI

Bronze - series of 9
h 72 x w 72 x d 5cm
\$33,500

5 Meditation Stone VII

Carrara limestone
h 103 x w 64 x d 12cm
\$27,850

6 Silent Moon

Bronze - edition of 11
h 34 x w 37x d 5cm
\$16,850

7 Foliate

Kilkenny limestone
h 106 x w 32 x d 12cm
\$22,250

8 Quintessent

Kilkenny limestone
h 100 x w 16 x d 15cm
\$18,850

9 Carrara Angel VIII

Carrara marble
h 39 x w 64 x d 14cm
\$15,850

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h 20 x w 61cm
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18 Colly Birds

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h 18 x w 36 x d 38cm
\$10,850

19 Spring Bird

Bronze - edition of 9
h 42 x w 11 x d 18cm
\$8,850

20 Longtail Bird

Bronze - an edition of 9
h 13 x w 15 x d 43cm
\$7,850



THANK YOU TO JULIETTE MILLS FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHY