

SPLASH

BONDI



LEAHEY 2015

JONATHAN LEAHEY

For the last 20 years he has worked exclusively as a sculptor, and has created numerous public art works in the United States, Ireland, Belgium and Australia. Previously he worked in Hollywood, doing special effects and robotics.

His sculptures have ranged from monumental eight-metre paper jets sticking in the ground, to standalone steel works created entirely from objects found on-site, to kinetic and animatronic installations.

Leahey's approach to public art is to develop an idea from observation of the area, discussion with the surrounding community, and his own visceral response to the brief. His ambition is to create immediately recognisable iconic structures, which are conceptually accessible to the casual observer and yet invite deeper consideration on a more complex level over time.

"I truly love public art", Jonathan told the *Sydney Morning Herald* in an interview last year. "It can really ignite a space, and give people a whole new perspective on an area."

As well as participating in Sculpture By The Sea for many years, Jonathan was recently invited to produce an installation for the Waverley council 'Festival of the Winds' in Bondi. Leahey has family in Bondi and spends a lot of time in the area; he is endlessly inspired by the ocean.

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Splash

SPLASH is a visual representation of a moment.

SPLASH will be constructed from steel and will last an extremely long time, yet it represents something fluid and fleeting.

SPLASH is built for Bondi. The iconic suburb is where Sydney meets the ocean, and where so many of Australia's and the world's citizens come to interact with water.

SPLASH is a visually impactful, gigantic interpretation of the tiniest of split seconds; a moment that we know exists, but can never see.

SPLASH is not just a sculpture, but also an interactive audio piece. When sensors detect a person approaching, the sounds of water will be heard. (These will be subtle, as not to annoy nearby traders). The sounds will all be taken from around Bondi - waves breaking, people swimming, kids splashing. A historic time capsule.

SPLASH reminds us that even on land, we depend on water. Our bodies are around 60% water and without it we couldn't live.

SPLASH is playful.

SPLASH is "a sudden disturbance to the otherwise quiescent surface of a liquid." (Wikipedia.)

SPLASH celebrates the relationship between Bondi and water. Water will always be the soul of Bondi.

SPLASH will provide seating for the weary and the waiting, as part of its surrounding landscaping. The seats are rendered as droplets.

SPLASH will provide a focal point to the heart of a busy, vibrant and cosmopolitan part of Sydney. It will enliven the space.

SPLASH will consist of five 'legs' ranging in height from 1.5m to 3m, placed in a circle, radiating outwards over a diameter of 3m.

SPLASH will be lit up at night.

SPLASH will be easily recognisable even from distance, and from any angle, whether by pedestrians or moving vehicles.

SPLASH will be built to the most rigorous of standards. Fabricated of 3mm sheet steel, clad over a galvanized steel superstructure. The finish will be oxidized zinc. This design will be mindful of residents, the streetscape, and traffic safety. A graffiti removal system will be provided with the sculpture.

SPLASH will be robust. The materials have been chosen for longevity, minimal maintenance, and maximum public safety. The sculpture will meet all relevant performance and safety standards, including climb-ability.

SPLASH is conceptually accessible to the casual observer, but invites deeper consideration on a more complex conceptual level over time.

SPLASH seems certain to become the backdrop for a million selfies.

SPLASH is onomatopoeia, become sculpture.

SPLASH





SPLASH
at night



SOUNDS
SPLASH



