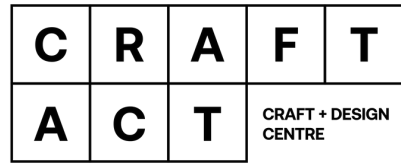




**ROBERT FOSTER F!NK  
NATIONAL METAL PRIZE**

Presented by Craft ACT: Craft + Design Centre





Craft ACT: Craft + Design Centre is supported by the ACT Government, the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy – an initiative of the Australian State and Territory Governments, and the Australia Council for the Arts – the Australian Government’s arts funding and advisory body.

Supported by:



CRAFT ACT CRAFT + DESIGN CENTRE

Tuesday – Friday 10am–5pm  
Saturdays 12–4pm

Level 1, North Building,  
180 London Circuit,  
Canberra ACT Australia

+61 2 6262 9333

[www.craftact.org.au](http://www.craftact.org.au)

Front Cover: Robert Foster, Kimono Pendant. Photo: of F!NK + Co.

Image: Robert Foster, Chrissy Bettle, 2008. Photo: Courtesy of F!NK + Co.







## A NEW NATIONAL PRIZE

Craft ACT is honoured to present the new Robert Foster F!NK national metal prize, supported by the Tall Foundation and F!NK + Co Director, Gretel Harrison.

The award will celebrate outstanding work in the field of contemporary metal working by designers and craftspeople - both established and emerging. In recognition of the value of high-quality craft making skills, good design and innovation, ten artists will be selected and have their work exhibited in the popular DESIGN Canberra festival. From the finalists, three makers, representing an established, an emerging artist, and an acquisition piece will be selected and awarded generous cash prizes.

This program is generously supported by the Tall Foundation, F!NK + Co., and Craft ACT: Craft + Design Centre.

Image: F!NK + Co., Squash Black Lid Vessel. Photo: Courtesy of F!NK + Co.



# THE OPPORTUNITY

The Robert Foster F!NK National Metal Prize is open to Australian-based metal working artists who create hollow-ware, flatware, lighting, small scale sculpture and objects. (Please note the prize is not open to jewellery or 3D printed objects.)

Ten artists, including a minimum of three emerging artists, will be selected by a panel of esteemed judges;

- Brian Parkes, Chief Executive Officer, Jam Factory
- Ewan McEoin, Senior Curator of Contemporary Design and Architecture at National Gallery of Victoria
- Rohan Nicol, Associate Head of School, Creative Arts and Media, Associate Professor of Fine Art, University of Tasmania
- Gretel Harrison, Director F!NK + co

Finalists' work will be featured in an exhibition at Craft ACT as part of the DESIGN Canberra festival.

At the exhibition opening, three winning categories will be awarded cash prizes for an overall winning artwork, an artwork acquired by the Tall Foundation Collection, and an emerging artist's artwork:

- Winner (Open): \$10,000
- Winner (Tall Foundation Acquisition): \$5,000
- Winner (Emerging): \$3,000

The remaining seven finalists will receive an artist's fee of \$250 each for participating in the exhibition.

Image: Robert Foster, Teapot - Yes Sir, 207. Photo: Courtesy of F!NK + Co.

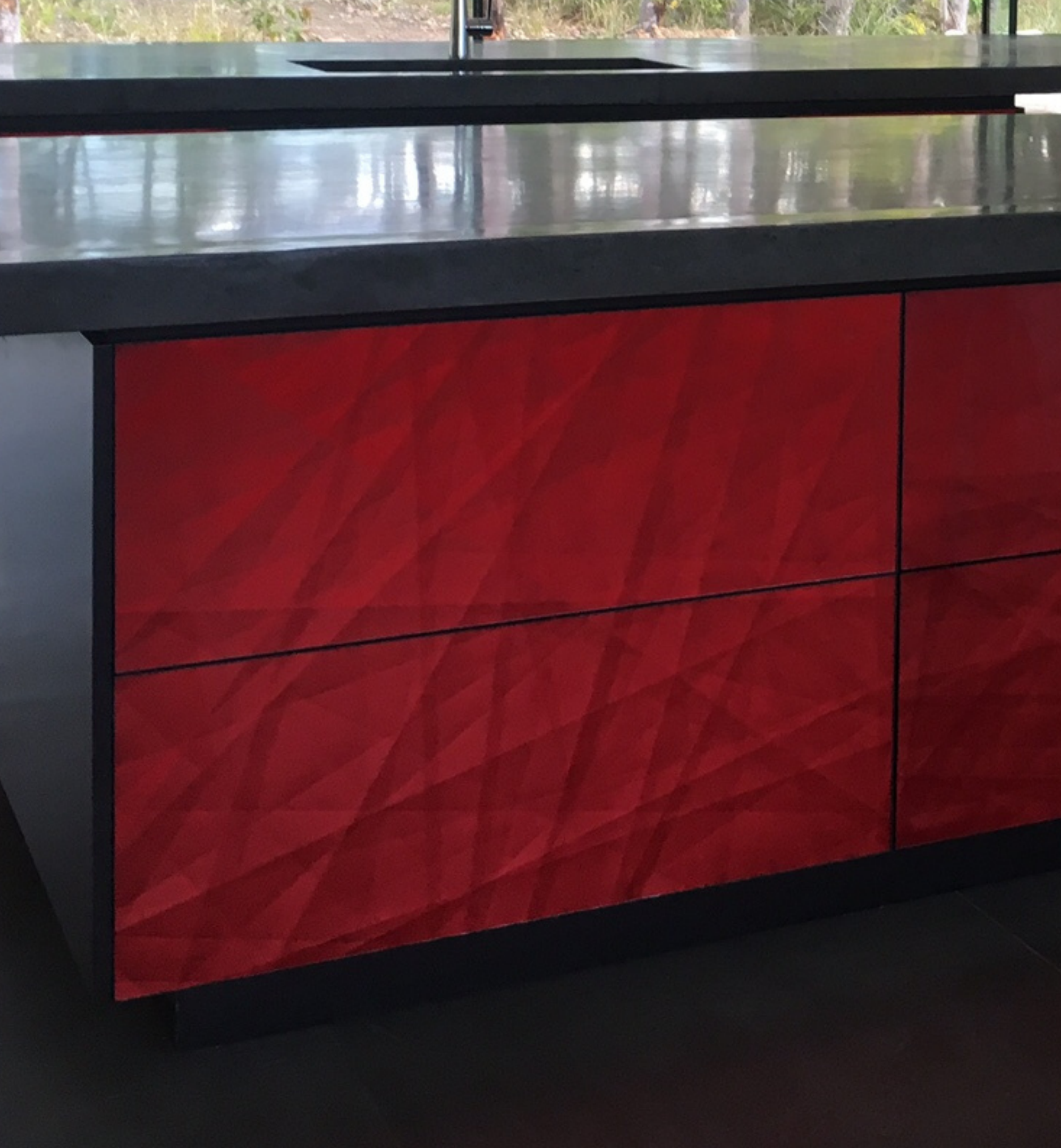






# PRIZE PARTNERS





## **THE TALL FOUNDATION**

Canberra based, The Tall Foundation supports a number of initiatives in the areas of health, education and the arts. The principals of the Foundation knew and worked with Robert on a number of projects and are delighted to be able to assist with the inaugural Robert Foster F!NK National Metal Prize.

Image: Robert Foster Tall House kitchen cabinet fronts, 2016. Photo: Courtesy of F!NK + Co.





## ROBERT FOSTER & F!NK

F!NK + Co. was established by Robert Foster in 1993 in Queanbeyan, NSW, Australia, with the aim of creating a design and manufacturing business that would support and generate opportunities for Australian designer-makers. Joined by Gretel Harrison in 1995, together they built F!NK + Co. into the business it is today – a much loved and respected Australian design company with an international reputation for producing world-class tableware, hollowware, jewellery and lighting.

Be it the iconic F!NK Water Jug, the squashed Storage Vessels, the graceful Coolamon Platters, the Ned Kelly-esque Wine Chiller or the subtle curves of the Beaker, every F!NK product melds refined craftsmanship with shapes and colours largely inspired by the Australian landscape – tropical corals, fish and anemones, endless blue skies and vast ancient deserts.

F!NK is the promise of modern design excellence, uniting the utmost respect for the design ethic with refined craftsmanship. This craftsmanship combines traditional artisanal practices alongside innovative contemporary manufacturing techniques joined with the wit and rigour of designer-founder Foster.

Foster was a long-term, respected and active member of Craft ACT. He became an Accredited Professional Member in 1993.

Tragically, Foster was killed in a car accident in July 2016. Today, F!NK + Co. is spearheaded by Gretel Harrison, who is not only the face of the company but who also leads a dynamic team of practitioners. The company has continued to go from strength to strength as Gretel and the F!NK staff builds on the legacy of Robert Foster.

Image: Robert Foster, Yellow Jug - Raised. Photo: Johannes Kuhen





## **CRAFT ACT: CRAFT + DESIGN CENTRE**

Craft ACT: Craft + Design Centre is a not-for-profit membership-based organisation (50 years strong) which supports artists, craft practitioners, designers and makers at every stage of their careers. We promote and celebrate excellence and innovation in contemporary craft in everything we do – in our retail space, exhibitions, events and membership program.

Image: Artist-in-residences: arts, heritage, and the environment 10 year anniversary exhibition, 2017. Photo: 5 Foot Photography



# TIMELINE

## June 2022:

- Submission close Monday 27 June 2022

## July 2022:

- Submissions are reviewed by the judging panel including:
  - Brian Parkes, Chief Executive Officer, Jam Factory
  - Ewan McEoin, Senior Curator of Contemporary Design and Architecture at National Gallery of Victoria
  - Rohan Nicol, Associate Head of School, Creative Arts and Media, Associate Professor of Fine Art, University of Tasmania
  - Gretel Harrison, Director F!NK + Co.

## Late July 2022:

- Successful artists advised
- Contracts dispatched and signed

## Early October 2022:

- Work delivered to Craft ACT
- Photography conducted

## October - December 2022:

- Robert Foster F!NK National Metal Award exhibition: 27 October – 10 December, 2022
- Program evaluation

Image: Robert Foster, Zen Thrust, 2015. Photo: Courtesy of the Artist.







**THE PRIZE**



# GENEROUS PRIZES

Ten artists, including a minimum of three emerging artists, will be selected by a panel of esteemed judges; Brian Parkes (Jam Factory), Ewan McEoin (National Gallery of Victoria), and Rohan Nicols (University Tasmania.)

Finalists' work will be featured in an exhibition at Craft ACT, October 27 to December 10 2022, as part of the popular DESIGN Canberra festival.

At the exhibition opening, three winning artists will be awarded cash prizes:

- Winner (Open): \$10,000
- Winner (Tall Foundation Acquisition): \$5,000
- Winner (Emerging): \$3,000

The remaining seven finalists will receive an artist's fee of \$250 each for participating in the exhibition.







# THE EXHIBITION





# THE EXHIBITION

Craft ACT will arrange an exhibition of the work in the Craft ACT Gallery from October 27 to December 10, 2022, as a part of the DESIGN Canberra festival. A contract and schedule of required deadlines including delivery of works, professional photography, and artist statements will be provided to the selected artists.

To support the exhibition, Craft ACT will provide:

- Professional photography of finished work and installation.
- Installation, demount and staffing for the duration of the exhibition.
- Insurance and public liability at Craft ACT.
- An opening function (subject to ACT Government Covid restrictions).
- Publicity, media engagement, social media, and digital marketing including a video gallery tour.
- A commissioned essay to foster deeper critical engagement with contemporary craft practice.
- Design and production of an e-catalogue which is shared on social media and the Craft ACT website.
- Printed copies of the catalogue will be provided free of charge to the participating artists, donors, and judges.

Selected artist will be responsible for:

- Transportation and transit insurance to and from the Gallery.
- All costs relating to the specific mounting requirements of the exhibition.
- Become a Craft ACT: Craft + Design Centre member (Prior to signing the supplied contract).
- Supplying the work with suitable display accessories including stands, hanging materials or other aids necessary by the installation date.
- Delivery (12 weeks prior to opening) of promotional information including a current curriculum vitae, artist statement and high resolution images.
- Exhibition art work information (including captions and prices) 2 weeks prior to the exhibition commencing.
- Participation in associated public programs such as a floor talk.
- Assisting in the promotion of the exhibition via social media and among your networks.



# APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS + PROCESS

All applications must include:

- A proposed artwork which responds to the selection criteria below.
- 6-10 high quality images indicative of your practice.
- Up to date CV.

All proposed works must address the following criteria:

- Use the medium of metal to produce either hollowware, flatware, lighting, small scale sculpture and/or objects.
- Demonstrate contemporary metal making and craft skills, good design, and innovation.
- Connection to contemporary design and craft practice and metal working.
- Be the original un-exhibited work of the submitting artist.
- Must have been proposed or completed within the last twelve months.
- Work must be made predominantly using metal, however other materials may be included.
- Excludes 3D modelling and jewellery.

All applications will be assessed according to:

- Demonstration of artistic excellence.
- Metal making and craft skills.
- Strength of technical expertise.
- Good design and innovation.
- Strength of concept.
- Use of the material.

All applications must be submitted via Submittable and will be considered by a panel.

The opportunity is open to emerging and established Australian designers, designer/makers, and craftspeople. The submissions can be for proposed or completed work from the last 12 months. Incomplete and late applications will not be accepted. Staff and relatives related to the sponsors, the Tall Foundation and F!NK + Co., are not permitted to apply.

Image: Robert Foster, Captured Azure. Photo: Courtesy of F!NK + Co.





# THE FINE PRINT

## **Craft ACT: Craft and Design Centre is responsible for:**

- Organisation of the judging panel and supporting the exhibition installation and demount.
- Insurance and public liability for the exhibition in 2022.
- Publishing exhibition support material including list of work, online catalogue, photographer, and promotional material.
- Publicity, promotion, and advertising of the award and exhibition via social media channels and on the Craft ACT website.

## **The artist will agree to:**

- Provide completed art works (craft and design based) for the exhibition.
- Provide Transportation of and transit insurance for exhibition work.
- Installation assistance, if applicable.
- Cover all costs relating to specific mounting requirements of the exhibition.
- Become a Craft ACT: Craft + Design Centre member (Prior to signing the supplied contract).
- Supply the artwork with suitable display accessories including stands, hanging materials or other aids necessary, by the installation date.
- Supply promotional information 8 weeks prior to open, September 1, 2022 - a current curriculum vitae, artist statement, artist bio, list of works, and high-resolution images.
- Participate in community engagement activities during the exhibition (including a floor talk and media interviews).

## **Contract**

Craft ACT: Craft + Design Centre requires each artist to enter into a short-term contract with the Centre for the duration of the exhibition, October 27 – December 10, 2022. The contract must be signed by both parties before delivery of work.

## **Costs and Subsidies**

The Robert Foster F!NK National Metal Prize is supported thanks to the donations by the Tall Foundation and in-kind support by F!NK + Co. Director, ,Gretel Harrison, and Craft ACT: Craft + Design Centre.

## **Sale of works during the exhibition**

The artist will make all work produced for the award and exhibition available for sale\* unless prior approval to the contrary has been given in writing by Craft ACT. Craft ACT: Craft + Design Centre applies a standard 35% commission on the selling price of all works sold during the exhibition period. Artists will supply an ABN or Statement by a Supplier and GST status before the exhibition commences.

\*With the exception of the artwork chosen for the Tall Acquisition Prize which will not be for sale nor returned to the maker but acquired by the Tall Foundation Collection.



**For further information, please contact:**

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welly.mcgarry@craftact.org.au or 02 6262 9333

**or**

Jodie Cunningham

CEO + Artistic Director, Craft ACT: Craft + Design  
jodie.cunningham@craftact.org.au or 02 6262 9333

Image: Luminary exhibition poster, designed by Lou Scrivener. Photo: DMC Photography

