

## 2015 MAANZ SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS

### Keynote Speaker

#### Emma Biggs

London-based professional mosaic artist  
[www.emmabiggsmosaic.net](http://www.emmabiggsmosaic.net)  
[www.emmabiggssandmatthewcollings.net](http://www.emmabiggssandmatthewcollings.net)

Our keynote speaker Emma Biggs is coming from London and will also be running workshops in Sydney and Melbourne. She is one of the founders of the renowned Mosaic Workshop, the largest mosaic studio in Britain. She has authored and co-authored many books on mosaics. She also makes collaborative paintings with her husband, the well-known art critic Matthew Collings (presenter of the UK television Channel Four's Turner Prize programme) who will be joining her on this trip.



### Speakers (in alphabetical order)

#### Margot Anton

Canadian mosaic artist  
[www.margoanton-mosaicjewels.com](http://www.margoanton-mosaicjewels.com)

Margo Anton has been working as a professional mosaic artist for over a decade, creating fine art mosaics, mosaic jewellery, and teaching classes. She has exhibited her highly textured art work in her native Canada, the USA, and Italy. When not creating, she shares her knowledge and love of the mosaic medium by teaching, from regular classes in Canada, to workshops in the USA, to artist residencies abroad. In 2009, she created the Mosaic a Day project, creating a small mosaic everyday. Her exceptionally precise jewellery was one of the by-products of this enterprise and her mastery of the tiniest cuts enables her to create these outstanding pieces.



## Craig Barker

Manager of Education and Public Programs at Sydney University Museums

[craig.barker@sydney.edu.au](mailto:craig.barker@sydney.edu.au)

Craig Barker has a PhD in Classical Archaeology from the University of Sydney and has considerable archaeological fieldwork experience in Australia, Greece, Turkey and Cyprus. He is co-director of the University of Sydney excavations of the ancient theatre of Nea Paphos. He is manager of education programs for the Nicholson and Macleay Museums and the University Art Gallery and has extensive experience in K-12 and adult museum education, and has published and presented on museum education in teacher and academic conferences and publications.



## John Botica

New Zealand mosaic artist  
[www.powerofpebbles.com](http://www.powerofpebbles.com)

John Botica loves talking about his passion for pebbles. The New Zealand based artist firmly believes that making pebble mosaics is his destiny – and he pursues it with a passion, power and joy that is evident in every one of his works.



## Maher Dawoud

Cairo, Egypt. Teacher at the Faculty of Fine Arts, mosaic artist  
[www.maherdawoud.com](http://www.maherdawoud.com)

Maher currently works as a teacher at the faculty of Fine Arts, mural department, as well as participating in various mosaics projects and exhibitions in and outside Egypt. In 2013, he obtained his PHD under the title: *The employment of mosaics in installation art (analytical and comparative study)*.



## Kate Kerrigan

Lake Tahoe, USA mosaic artist  
<http://katekerrigan.net/>

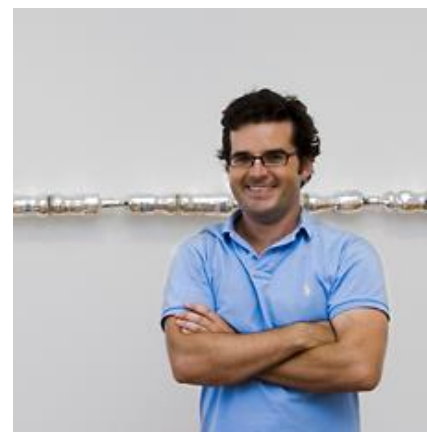
After studying traditional methods and materials in Italy, I integrated my mosaic work with my photography, bringing my art full circle. My inspiration to create stems from what I see everyday. I love composition and am constantly framing my surroundings. Through photography, I am able to capture it, the light, the moment, the perspective. Through mosaic, I am able to take what I see one step further and interpret it, simplifying some of the details, yet restraining its essence. Having been influenced by the Impressionists and Urban Realists, I have developed a rather “poetic” eye. My compositions have unique perspective and tend to be rather emotive, drawing on feelings of isolation, melancholy, solitude and contemplation. As I work on a piece, it literally takes me back to that moment in time, that place, allowing me to linger there awhile longer. It is so fulfilling to see my image come alive, full of texture and dimension. It is a process that makes me feel totally connected to my work. I have a mosaic artist for 16 years and have been awarded and recognised on national and international levels.



## Andrew Lavery

Sydney, Australia. Head of Department, Contemporary Art, Senior Lecturer  
[www.andrewlavery.com](http://www.andrewlavery.com)

Andrew Lavery was born and raised in Melbourne, Victoria. He has been a practising artist for 12 years and has exhibited widely in Australia abroad. Lavery has evolved as a conceptual multi-disciplinary artist with specific interests sculpture, installation and the handmade object in hybrid practice. Lavery has been the recipient of two Australia Council grants that have taken him to Venice, Italy to research ‘massiccio’ glass techniques and New York, USA to research hybrid uses of glass at the Corning Museum’s Rakow Research Library. Andrew’s work is recognised in major publications such as Australian Glass Today. His work is included public and private collections, including Art Bank, The National Art Glass Collection, Wagga Wagga Regional Gallery and Coca Cola Amatil. Andrew has maintained a long-standing interest in exploring social issues through his art practise; in particular, notions of commodity and the relationship of banality and suburban desire. His recent works are a form of archaeological barometer, implying layers of occupation by different social groups and their connection to the cultural and interpersonal fabric of urban life.



Andrew Lavery is a Senior Lecturer and Associate Dean of Learning and Teaching at Sydney College of the Arts at the University of Sydney

## George Raftopoulos

Greek-born painter who grew up in rural NSW

[www.georgeraftopoulos.com](http://www.georgeraftopoulos.com)

George's paintings, vivid and monumental in the spirit of Picasso's neoclassical mode, blend two registers: the Greek past, whether the archaic past or the the near-present Corfu from which his family emigrated; and a use of colour and line that recalls Australia's monochrome emptiness, as well as the fluid lines of John Olsen. The result is once familiar and alien, elegant and disquieting, rigorous and anarchic.

Paint, collage and digital imagery are all present in his works, but his works are engineered via content. Browsing through his assemblage of art is a journey through quirky, angry and wistful reflections.



## Julie Richey

Texas, USA mosaic artist

[www.juliericheymosaics.com](http://www.juliericheymosaics.com)

Award winning Texas artist Julie Richey has been making mosaics for more than 20 years, creating custom residential and commercial installations in the US, Italy, Spain and Mexico. Her mosaics and sculptures have been exhibited across the US, at the biennial Ravenna Mosaico festival and at the Orsoni Smalti Veneziani foundry in Venice as part of the Orsoni Grand Prize for mosaic in 2009.



## Suzanne Spahi

Montreal, Quebec, Canada mosaic artist

[www.suzannespahi.com](http://www.suzannespahi.com)

In her personal works, Suzanne specializes in interpreting antique oriental rugs in miniature mosaics. Such decorative works take between five and nine months to make. This subject matter came to her naturally, as she is a fan of elaborate rugs and has always had a desire to own the most famous antique ones. So now she weaves her personal stories in mosaic.



## Heather Vollans

Ontario, Canada mosaic artist

[www.facebook.com/dawningdecorstudio](https://www.facebook.com/dawningdecorstudio)

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Heather Vollans is an Australian mosaic artist living in Ontario, Canada. Prior to finding mosaic about 15 years ago, Heather dabbled in acrylic/oil painting, sculpture, jewellery making, furniture restoration, and lots of other crafts. Her passion for mosaic – often as a mixed media – has grown, her materials become more diverse and her exploration of methods and techniques continues. Heather’s passion is using discarded materials – often from construction sites, road sides and from around the home. Metals, plastics, tyre-rubber and asphalt are some of her favourite materials. Work always begins with the textural possibilities (and accumulation!) of found materials. Design follows materials, rarely the other way around – and the materials ‘speak’ to the design possibilities.



Her exhibition work often addresses subjects around “the human condition” – our emotions, influences, reactions, our relationships, our environment and the way we live our daily lives. Heather has a number of community projects under her belt and continues to teach in local schools, galleries and colleges. Heather completed her first public project in 2013 and is currently a finalist for another.