

## Barangaroo art fund bears botanical fruit

By [Linda Morris](#)

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Vast photographic glass curtains referencing ironbarks, strangler figs and Gynea lilies have been unveiled at Barangaroo – the largest permanent public artwork commissioned at Barangaroo since the formation of an art fund for the site.

*Shadows*, by Berlin-based artist Sabine Hornig, has been installed across a 170-metre walkway connecting Lendlease's three office towers at Barangaroo South.

The towering works comprised translucent images of native flora baked into soaring vertical panels of glass at the buildings' entrances and exits, creating what Hornig described as a "botanical discovery route".



Berlin-based artist Sabine Hornig's new work *Shadows* has been installed across a 170-metre walkway connecting Lendlease's three office towers at Barangaroo South. JANIE BARRETT

The project has been funded from Lendlease's contribution of \$20 million to public art on the site – a condition of its development application.

The remaining money will be allocated to four permanent projects and other

temporary artworks at the Renzo Piano-designed residential towers, the Barangaroo South waterfront and Hickson Park now under construction behind Crown Casino.

One idea was for a permanent artwork that told the story of The Hungry Mile; a stretch of former docklands on Hickson Rd from Napoleon St to the Walsh Bay Tunnel, which was important to Sydney's history during the Great Depression.

Funding for public arts across the Barangaroo redevelopment has been forecast to top \$50 million, which includes Lendlease's pledge of a further \$20 million to create artworks across the entire Barangaroo site.

With in-kind developer contributions, this was one of the largest pot of money for public artworks in Sydney.

Infrastructure NSW, which has taken over the Barangaroo Delivery Authority, has commissioned two arts projects under the Barangaroo Public Art and Culture Plan, including SKATE at the Cutaway, an underground skateboard theatrical experience.

A spokesperson said Infrastructure NSW was currently reviewing artist briefs for future arts projects under the plan which remained in place until the completion of Barangaroo.



The ghostly outline of an ironbark against a taxi yellow sky occupies an entire walkway corner at Barangaroo South. JANIE BARRETT

Of the four upcoming projects at Barangaroo South, Lendlease was planning to commission two major art projects over the next year with the other two probably needing longer planning time.

"We need more time to understand what is being built outside of our site and how to integrate a Hungry Mile project within the edge of Hickson Rd and still being designed," said Annie Tennant, the company's general manager of Sustainability

and Culture at Barangaroo South.

A seven-storey high wall of shells, a collaboration by La Perouse-based Indigenous artist Esme Timbery and Jonathan Jones, was installed in 2015.

A floating cloud installation by contemporary artist Tomás Saraceno above a new waterfront park was abandoned in 2018.

For her site-specific work, Sabine Hornig said she had tried to imagine the natural landscape of Barangaroo before the towers existed.

A glorious Gynea lily against a backdrop of pristine harbour graces a soaring tower facade. The ghostly outline of an ironbark against a taxi yellow sky occupies an entire walkway corner.

Hornig said her inspiration for the work came when she was given a tour of Royal Botanic Gardens by Kikuyalanii woman Henrietta Baird who impressed on her the importance of plants to Indigenous Australians.

She named her work *Shadows* for the work's reflective quality and "the shadows of nature, the shadows of history, the shadows of certain times".



**Linda Morris**



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