

**MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY**  
**SCULPTURE COMPETITION**  
**1997**

***BEAUTY AND THE BEAST***  
 **painted sandstone sculpture**

**Proposal**  
**from**  
**Susan Dorothea White**

**278 Annandale Street  
Annandale, NSW 2038**

# ***BEAUTY AND THE BEAST***

## **Proposal for Site A, Macquarie University**

**painted sandstone sculpture - 75 cm high x 65 cm wide x 63 cm deep**

### **Artist's Aim**

My aim is to create a form of *Beauty and the Beast* from an Australian perspective. Beauty has the soft rounded features of an Aboriginal woman, while the Beast has an imaginary combination of features of different Australian creatures. Its eyes are reptilian (or crocodilian) while its furry body with claws is mammalian. The aim is to evoke an amalgam of European and Australian legends, with an element of whimsy. The fantasy in the sculpture will appeal to people from all backgrounds and of all ages.

### **Safety & Access**

Owing to its low elevation (mounted on a 40 cm high plinth), and rounded form, the public will be able to interact safely with the sculpture. Its surface is accessible to everyone to touch, including disabled people in wheelchairs and the blind. The sculpture is very secure because of its broad base and weight

### **Aesthetics**

The form is based on the golden section, in that the proportions of the shapes are balanced according to the golden ratio. The forms of Beauty and of the Beast are melded together, creating intrigue and an aesthetic appeal from every view. The sculpture has contrasting textures in its carving, e.g., the lines of the Beast's fur and Beauty's hair, the pattern in the whorl at the back of the Beast's head, the smoothness of Beauty's face and the Beast's claws, etc. (see illustrations enclosed). The sculpture will not date: the legend is permanently in our culture.

### **Painted Stone: Revival of a Tradition**

I propose to paint the sculpture in different colours, after the custom in European Antiquity, the Middle Ages, and in Aboriginal and Oceanic cultures practised today. I intend using natural earth colours made of permanent pigments (see watercolour sketches enclosed). The paint will not only protect the sandstone which is prone to weathering and discolouring, but will also enhance the form and add meaning to the concept of the whole sculpture.

### **Completion Time**

The sculpture is completed except for the painting, which will take approximately one month.

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26 June 1997

Public Relations Unit  
Office of the Vice-Chancellor  
Macquarie University  
NSW 2109

Dear Public Relations Unit,

Please find enclosed my proposal for the Macquarie University Sculpture Competition.

Yours sincerely,

Susan White



Encl.

Album containing:

- Artist's statement
- Pen & wash drawing of *Beauty & the Beast*
- 2 colour photographs of *Beauty & the Beast*
- 2 watercolour sketches showing *Beauty & the Beast* painted
- Curriculum vitae
- 2 sculptures published by *Who's Who in International Art*
- 1 photograph of another sandstone sculpture
- Critique of New York exhibition 1994