



## Sam Gowing

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### **Education/Artist Training**

1984 - 1986 Arts Certificate (honours) Hornsby Tafe, N.S.W.

1987 - 1990 Visual Fine Art (B.A.) City Art Institute, N.S.W.

2024 - MIG & TIG Welding Course - SOAW, Redlands, QLD

### **Current art related employment**

**HOTA** - "Kids Take Over" workshops | artist

**Gold Coast Art School** - Southport | Art School Teacher (lower primary)

**ToucanDoo** - Kids art on plates - Burleigh Heads | Owner of company

**samism369** - Freelance graphic designer - Burleigh Heads | Self employed

### **Bursary**

**Merge Creative Bursary (Swell Sculpture Festival)** - \$3,000 Bursary towards MIG & TIG welding course.

### **Arts Residency**

**SITELINES artist in residency Hinze Dam** - a program run by SWELL, assisting in the build process of two large-scale land artworks by Marcus Tatton and Shannon Best.

### **Artist Bio**

Gold Coast based sculptor, Sam Gowing is an active environmentalist with a deep love and respect for her surroundings and all the creatures that dwell within it, whether that be on land or in the ocean.

Over three decades, Sam Gowing has turned her creative talents to diverse and eclectic projects in Melbourne, Sydney and now on the Gold Coast. After graduating in fine art in Sydney (COFA) in the eighties she participated in various group shows, exhibiting painting and sculptural works, and art installations exploring the fragility of self. Her keen interest in the environment, and love of the ocean and native wildlife, recently turned this focus outwards to the susceptibility of fellow creatures on this planet. She believes in the power of art within the environment, that it can be a subconscious influencer of our feelings about place, nature and sustainability. She strives to make environmental issues more accessible, to put them on a human level, so that we can re-engage with them. Replicating natural forms and creatures, often at a different scale or in an incongruous colour, her message is that nature, whatever we do, will always remain supreme.

Sam has primarily worked with paper and cane for her large sculptural pieces but has recently diversified into aluminium to create more durable external installations. The lightness of the material is perfect to capture the skeletal form of the creatures she likes to portray, hinting at the delicate nature of the fauna and its gentle touch on our environment. Illumination is key to Sam's work, and she uses light to play with transparency and solidity, permanency, and fragility. Her installations seem to transform themselves, chameleon-like, at sunrise and sunset, and then again at night they are lit with an ethereal glow.



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### Exhibitions 2024

#### Swell Sculpture Festival Sep 2024

Currumbin, QLD. | *Buzzing Beneficiaries*

#### Brunswick Heads Sculpture Walk Sep 2024

Brunswick Heads, NSW. *Heading Home* (whales) & *Bin There* (Australian White Ibis)

#### Sculptures on the Edge Nov 2023

Flaxton Gardens, Sunshine Coast QLD. | *Sticking Around* (also exhibited *Sunshine & Sons* | *Whale Tail and Fin* & *Eastern Water Dragons*)

#### Swell Sculpture Festival Sep 2023

Currumbin, QLD. | *Basking in the Sun*

#### Sculptures on the Edge Nov 2022

Flaxton Gardens, Sunshine Coast Hinterlands QLD. | 1. *Whale Playground - Day in the Country*, 2. *Flight of the Eagle rays* 3. *Light Flight of the Eagle rays*

#### Brunswick Heads Sculpture Walk Sep 2021

Brunswick Heads, NSW. *Sea Turtles nesting*

#### Swell Sculpture Festival Sep 2021

Currumbin, QLD. | *Whale Playground*

#### Mini Whale Festival,

Palm Beach Surf Club, October 2020 '*H&H*' *Mother and calf whale*

**Festivilion** Waverley Council, Bondi Pavilion, Sydney, October 2018 | '*Stingrays... and other sea creatures, illuminations and adornments*'

### Collections

**Gold Coast Airport** - *Basking in the Sun* | Eastern Water Dragons 2&4 (pair)

**Stephen Scotchmer, Esprit de Vie, Swell Sculpture Garden** | *Basking in the Sun* - Eastern Water Dragons 1&4 (pair)

**Gail Hunter**, personal collection | *Flight of the Eagle rays* installation

### Bibliography

**Channel 9** Gold Coast Airport interview about Eastern Water Dragons new home.

**Channel 7 Weekender, Gold Coast Bulletin (Lisette) Interview. ABC radio Gold Coast**, live interview with **Bern Young**, Swell Sculpture Festival 2023

**Weekly Preview Sunshine Coast** - November 10th issue - printed and digital | Interview by Ingrid Nelson for work in *Sculptures on the Edge* exhibition. 2022

**Gold Coast City Council** bus billboards - photo of *Whale Playground* | tourism ad 2022

### Professional Memberships

Arts Connect

Flying Arts

Member of MCA - Sydney

Member of HOTA - Gold Coast

### Artists Mediums

Alumium and Welding | Lighting | Wire Paper/Pencil | Paint | Tissue Paper | Glue | Resin