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International Perspectives on Public Art

September proved to be a busy month of conferences and workshops for Richard Brecknock. Firstly he presented a paper titled "Planning for Culture and Creativity in Australian Cities" at the **3rd International Urban Design Conference** in Canberra. The paper explored the context in which public art is planned, conceptualised and executed within the policy and planning frameworks that exist in Australian cities.

Most recently Richard has been in Abu Dhabi as an advisor at a workshop on the development of a Public Art Policy for the Emirate. The **Abu Dhabi Public Art Strategy Workshop** was staged under the auspices of the Sheikha Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation. The Public Art Strategy Workshop was inaugurated in Abu Dhabi on the 27th September by H.H. Sheikha Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan, wife of H.H. General Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and Chairman of the Executive Council.

The three-day seminar held at the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi brought together world class experts in the field of public art policy to collaborate with local representatives from government and semi-government agencies to develop a draft public art strategy and policy for the Emirate. The workshop was attended by representatives from the: Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage; Abu Dhabi Municipality; Department of Transport; Executive Affairs Authority; Office of the Brand of Abu Dhabi; Tourism Development Investment Company; Urban Planning Council; Zayed University; NY University Abu Dhabi; and Sorbonne University.

The international experts participating in the workshop were: Larry Beasley, a Canadian planner who facilitated the Abu Dhabi 2030 Plan; public art consultant Barbara Goldstein from the USA; public art consultant Maggie Bolt from England; and Richard Brecknock. The workshop's goal was to develop a holistic strategy for the promotion, development and implementation of public art, in keeping with the Emirate's goal to be a "contemporary Arab city".

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