

Dave Pigram ERA Final Prototype Photographer: Nick Burrows

IMAGE

PROJECT DATA

RESEARCH STATEMENT

Researchers:	Iain Maxwell [University of Canberra] Sam Tomkins [University of Canberra] Dave Pigram [University of Technology Sydney]
Title of Work:	SuperFlax
Commissioned By:	National Gallery of Victoria [NGV] & Stylecraft
Peer-Review:	SuperFlax was one of four shortlisted entries in the 2024 Australian Furniture Design Award run by the National Gallery Victoria (NGV) & Stylecraft. [National Shortlist]
	SuperFlax was a Good Design Award Winner in the Product Furniture and Lighting category of the 2024 Good Design Awards. [National Winner]
Venue:	SuperFlax was exhibited in Melbourne Design Week 2024 along with the other three finalists of the 2024 Australian Furniture Design Award. Exhibition curated by the National Gallery Victoria (NGV) & Stylecraft. [Nationally Significant Exhibition]
Publication Date:	23rd May 2024

Research Background

innovation; and design for decarbonisation. emissions.

crisis?

Research Contribution

SuperFlax demonstrates the aesthetic and functional possibilities of contemporary bio-composite techniques in concert with renewable material streams and historical making practices. The use of bio-composite textiles — flax yarn and biomass resins — for both surface articulation and structural purposes is unprecedented in contemporary furniture manufacturing. Knitting offers a materially efficient and highly scalable strategy with expressive qualities that are easily formed using the material's own tensile behaviour. An innovative method that supports efficient and repeatable manufacturing. SuperFlax offers an ethical, non-toxic, environmentally light-footed and formally spectacular design outcome that evidences the benefits of its embedded material and fabrication innovations.

Significance

program.

Super.Flax won the Good Design Award 2024 in the Product, Furniture and Lighting Category.

NTRO DOCUMENTATION

SuperFlax is a zero petrochemical bio-composite furniture production method demonstrated via a functional chair prototype. It contributes to the combined fields of material and fabrication

Lightweight furniture is often made from petrochemical materials using energy intensive forming processes such as injection moulding and generating excessive waste and high greenhouse gas

The research asks: how might furniture design and production evolve in response to the climate

Super.Flax was one of four commissioned pieces for the 2024 Australian Furniture Design Award (AFDA) by the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) and Stylecraft. The AFDA is Australia's most prestigious furniture award commission. It culminates in a public exhibition as part of Melbourne Design Week, an initiative of the Victorian State Government through the Creative Victoria

AUSTRALIAN FURNITURE DESIGN AWARD NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA, STYLECRAFT AND

CREATIVE VICTORIA

NATIONAL SHORTLIST [1 OF 5]



Dave Pigram ERA

NTRO DOCUMENTATION

SELECTION PROCESS AND EVIDENCE OF ESTEEM

stylecraft•



AUSTRALIAN FURNITURE DESIGN AWARD [NATIONAL]

NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA, STYLECRAFT AND

CREATIVE VICTORIA

NATIONAL SHORTLIST [1 OF 5]



Media Release • 19 Dec 23

AUSTRALIAN FURNITURE DESIGN AWARD 2024: SHORTLISTED FINALISTS ANNOUNCEMENT

Today, the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) and Stylecraft announced the finalists shortlisted for the **Australian Furniture Design Award** – one of the nation's richest furniture and lighting design accolades with a \$20,000 cash prize.

Presented by the NGV and Stylecraft, the biennial Award celebrates the most interesting and innovative furniture and lighting design being created in Australia today. Now in its fifth iteration, the Award seeks to recognise outstanding new design ideas; critical and creative thinking; sustainability; material development; and research that explores innovative production processes.

The finalists for the Australian Furniture Design Award 2024 are

- · Bala Ga' Lili Bonhula Yunupingu and Damien Wright
- Marta Figueiredo
- Michael Gittings
- Nae Tanakorn
- supermanoeuvre + Tomkins Design

The shortlisted finalists will be invited to present their realised designs for exhibition and judging at the Stylecraft showroom during Melbourne Design Week 2024. The winning designer will receive a cash prize of AUD \$20,000 and an invitation to develop a commercial range or product with Stylecraft.

The 2024 jury comprises **Ewan McEoin**, Senior Curator, Contemporary Art, Design and Architecture at the NGV (Chair); **Tony Russell**, Brand Director at Stylecraft, Melbourne; **Anne-Claire Petre**, Founder Anaca Studio, Melbourne; **Hamish Guthrie** co-director Hecker Guthrie, Melbourne, and **Elliat Rich**, Alice Springs-based designer and 2017 AFDA winner. Competition advisor 2024 is **Simone LeAmon**, Curator, Contemporary Design and Architecture, NGV.

Tony Ellwood AM, Director, NGV, said: 'The Australian Furniture Design Award presents an invaluable platform for local furniture and lighting designers to showcase their extraordinary work. This Award celebrates the incredible creativity and innovation empowering this design discipline, as well as its contribution to design discourse and Australian culture.' Anthony Collins, CEO, Stylecraft, said: 'For 70 years, Stylecraft has been guided by the principle of active collaboration with the global and Australian design community. The Australian Furniture Design Award is unique in the national design landscape for its combination of recognition, professional development, financial support and very importantly, a commercial opportunity for an Australian designer. We are excited to build upon the legacy of this important award, founded by Stylecraft and the JamFactory, in 2015.'

Sydney-based designer Seaton McKeon won the inaugural award in 2015 with *The Sun The Moon and Me*, a freestanding light and mirror. In 2017, Alice Springs-based designer Elliat Rich received the award for her sculptural vanity, *Place*. In 2020, Sydney-based industrial designer James Walsh won, impressing the jury with *Anthropic bench*, which combined rammed earth with recycled glass filings to produce a sustainable and hard-wearing composite. Most recently, Ashley Eriksmoen received the award in 2022 with *The Dream, or: the view from here is both bleak and resplendent* – a signature work that conclusion of the award exhibition in May 2022 Eriksmoen's piece was acquired into the permanent collection of the NGV and is now on display at the lan Potter Centre NGV Australia, Federation Square.

Call for Entries for the 2024 competition closed on 18 October 2023. From the entries received, the jury selected a shortlist of five finalists to proceed to Stage Two of the design competition.

ABOUT THE SHORTLISTED DESIGNERS

Bala Ga' Lili is the name of Bonhula Yunupingu and Damien Wright's creative practice. The pair are long time collaborators. Damien is a balanda (white man), a settler. Bonhula is Yolnju, from the Gumati clan of Northeast Arnhem Land. In spite - or in fact because - of their vast cultural differences, the two have successfully collaborated in the production of their craft. The pair make limited edition furniture. The name Bala Ga' Lili comes from a Yolniu term which describes the place where salt water and freshwater mixes to create brackish water. It is here in the brackish water - in the balance of different world views - that creative moments materialise. As master woodworkers the outcome of their collaborative partnership is a distinctively Australian, design vernacular. Combining sketch and role play Bonhula and Damien have developed their own generative design dialogue. The language of difference and tension permeates their creativity. Bala Ga' Lili creates furniture pieces that examine and reveal the complexities of First Nations and Settler Colonial relationships. Their work has been collected by the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, they have exhibited around the nation and were awarded Winner of the Victorian Craft Award 2022.

Marta Figueiredo, born in Portugal in 1979 and currently based in Naarm/Melbourne, is an Australian-Portuguese architect and multidisciplinary designer. In 2018, she founded her practice, which combines traditional processes with innovative technology to produce immersive, playful, and sensory-rich projects.

Her work extends beyond aesthetics, gently challenging preconceptions about design, standardisation, and sustainability, fostering a broader sensory experience. Marta's creations emphasise emotional connections through narrative and sensory interactions, often incorporating elements like sound and scent to redefine design expression. Recognised for innovation, Marta received the 2021 High Commendation Clarence Prize for Excellence in Furniture Design (Tasmania) and was a 2020 Australian Furniture Design Award finalist. Her work has been featured globally, from Melbourne Now 2023 and Sydney Contemporary 2023 to Milan Design Week, Belgium Collectible Fair, Shanghai, and Metaphors – Hermes Paris. Moreover, Marta secured funding to participate in the City of Melbourne's Test Sites program for public art in 2021. Most recently, she unveiled a captivating public art installation, "The Diva Garden" in Melbourne's CBD.

Dave Pigram

SELECTION PROCESS AND EVIDENCE OF ESTEEM

Peer Review

Original Creative Work Design Project **Michael Gittings** was born and raised in Albury, Victoria, and established his design studio in Fawkner, in Melbourne's north, in 2016. Michael's practice is intuitive, allowing metals and their properties to direct the form of the work. He is interested in the myriad of treatments and technologies employed throughout history by industry and artisans to form and finish metal products. His techniques span those at the very forefront of modern science to those that have been around for millennia, harking back to pre-industrial craftsmanship. Michael allows these techniques to hold influence over the final form of the work. While some techniques involve meticulous planning and construction, others require no previous plans or sketches and the metal can be worked by hand, like clay at a potter's wheel. Michael's work is a continually evolving dialogue between artist and material.

Nae Tanakorn is a passionate designer, creating exciting art forms that resonate with his emotions.

Throughout his journey, he has learned to harness his feelings into his creativity and craft, allowing him to feel a deep connection to his pieces. There is no defined pattern or a certain measurement when his creations are conceptualised, but only when it feels right. Having a clear focus on ergonomics and sustainability, Nae creates harmonious connections within his works that not only evoke a sense of wonder but are also environmentally considered. In 2023, Nae was awarded the Vivid Furniture Design award for Resonate side table, shortlisted for the Interior Design Excellence Award 2023(Idea), The object, furniture, and lighting – rising category for Resonate side table, and made the TOP 100 shortlists for Maker of the Year, Tables, chairs & Desks category, in the Wood Review Maker of the Year awards for Resonate side table.

supermanoeuvre + Tomkins Design is an interdisciplinary collaboration by two internationally recognised and mutli-award-winning design and innovation studios: supermanoeuvre (architecture and technology) and Tomkins Design (industrial design). Sam Tomkins is a nationally awarded industrial designer and educator. His professional and research practice centres on the possibilities of technology as tools to address the contemporary challenges of waste and over-consumption while exploring new object typologies. Iain [Max] Maxwell is co-director of the international award-winning architecture studio supermanoeuvre and an Associate Professor at the University of Canberra. He is a registered architect, design researcher, and educator. His practice operates at the creative overlap of digital design culture, material practice, and fabrication innovation. Combining professional practice with academia. Dave Pigram invents new design and material systems to produce memorable experiences and climate positive outcomes. He is a computational designer, educator, advanced fabrication researcher, and co-director of supermanoeuvre

For further information on the Australian Furniture Design Award, please visit the competition website: ngv.vic.gov.au/australian-furniture-design-award-2024

The Australian Furniture Design Award Competition process is delivered by CityLab.

Download media release

NATIONAL TWO-STAGE COMPETITION CITYLAB

<u>CityLab</u>



AUSTRALIAN FURNITURE DESIGN AWARD 2024

The Australian Furniture Design Award is a significant Australian furniture design accolade, developed to recognise excellence in Australian furniture and lighting design and its contribution to design discourse and Australian culture.

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Dave Pigram ERA

Peer Review National Competition

NTRO DOCUMENTATION

GOOD DESIGN AWARD WINNER PRODUCT, FURNITURE AND LIGHTING

SUPER.FLAX



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GOOD DESIGN WINNER INDEX

WINNER INDEX AUSTRALIAN GOOD DESIGN AWARDS NEWS + EVENTS ABOUT PARTNERS CONTACT

GOOD DESIGN AWARD[®] WINNER

PRODUCT FURNITURE AND LIGHTING

2024 Australian Furr Australian Furniture Design Award nal Gallery Victoria (NGV) & Stylecraft ustralia

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DESIGNED IN: Australia CHALLENGE SOLUTION IMPACT MORE

SUPER.FLAX

Original Creative Work Design Project

Dave Pigram ERA NTRO DOCUMENTATION Peer Review Good Design Award 2024

EVIDENCE OF ESTEEM



MELBOURNE DESIGN WEEK EXHIBITION

NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA, STYLECRAFT AND CREATIVE VICTORIA

NATIONAL SHORTLIST [1 OF 5]



Dave Pigram ERA

Original Creative Work Design Project







Part of Melbourne Design Week 2024, an initiative of the Victorian Government in collaboration wi The Australian Furniture Design Award competition process is developed and delivered by <u>Citvia</u>











lain Maxwell, University of Canberra Sam Tomkins, University of Canberra Dave Pigram, University of Technology, Sydney AUTHORS

SuperFlax Bio-Composite Chair Prototype

DESIGN ARTEFACTS FINAL PROTOTYPE PHOTOGRAPHS



Dave Pigram ERA

Final Prototype Photos

IMAGE

Original Creative Work Design Project

DESIGN ARTEFACTS FINAL PROTOTYPE PHOTOGRAPHS





Dave Pigram ERA

IMAGE

Original Creative Work Design Project

DESIGN ARTEFACTS DISSASSEMBLABLABLE MOULD



IMAGE

DESIGN ARTEFACTS CUSTOM KNIT MACHINE



Dave Pigram ERA

Custom Knit Machine Photos Photographer: Nick Burrows

IMAGE

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DESIGN ARTEFACTS CUSTOM KNIT MACHINE





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