

Inflatable sculpture reveals Tom Moore's art of glass as part of Adelaide Biennial exhibition

TRY turning a small glass sculpture into a five-metre high inflatable one. For artist Tom Moore, it's like four dreams coming true at once. Here's where to see the remarkable piece of art.

PATRICK McDONALD

FEBRUARY 22, 2016 9:51PM



BLOWN UP: Tom Moore holds a mini snowdome copy of his work with the inflatable at the Art Gallery. Picture: MATT TURNER *Source: News Limited*

IT took more than a little magic to transform artist Tom Moore's glass sculpture into a five-metre high inflatable, which will stand outside the Art Gallery on North Terrace during its Adelaide Biennial exhibition.

Brisbane-based fabrication company Urban Art Projects had to get the giant plastic inflatable made in China by its Shanghai office, then ship it back to Australia.

"I still can't quite believe that this whole process has happened — it's like four dreams coming true all at once," Mr Moore said.

“It’s pretty much impossible to blow a glass bubble bigger than a wallaby ... so to see my work translated into another material is thrilling, for sure, and it’s a little bit mind-blowing.”



Artist Tom Moore with the glass, snowdome and inflatable versions of his sculpture outside the Art Gallery of SA. Picture: Matt TurnerSource:News Corp Australia

Mr Moore’s quirky and often comical glass creations will also be on display at the JamFactory — where he was production manager for the past 15 years — and the Museum of Economic Botany in the Botanic Garden as part of this year’s multi-venue Biennial exhibition, which is titled *Magic Object*.

“It’s the role of the artist as a kind of magician who transforms materials: Tom’s work is the perfect example of that,” said curator Lisa Slade.

“One of the abiding themes in the show is what the sculptor Claes Oldenburg called a ‘perverse reversal’ ... what happens when you take one thing and turn it into something else?”

Mr Moore’s 50cm-high glass sculpture *Magnified Planktonic Self* has also been shrunk down to create a limited edition snowdome, of which only 936 copies will be for sale at the gallery.

“The snow-globe, the glass object and the inflatable make you question what’s going on ... there’s a cognitive shift that happens when you see a small thing big, or a big thing small, and I think that can be very funny,” said Mr Moore, 44, of Richmond.

“I want to present work that is very entertaining but also sneak in some more serious messages — I’m trying to raise the alarm about our environmental situation, the state of the planet.”

Magic Object runs at the Art Gallery, Samstag Museum, Botanic Garden, Carrick Hill and JamFactory from Saturday until May 15, as part of the Adelaide Festival.