

FAN



Fan is a kinetic wind sculpture of monumental scale that celebrates the centenary of women's suffrage in Australia. Framed by Old Parliament House, *Fan* belies its enormous scale to open and close, float and glide in the wind. Its curved 'blades' scribe the intersecting arcs of a fan 16 metres in the air. Their perfect balance allows a sensitive response to the vagaries of the wind whilst bias weights return the sculpture to an open position at rest.

Fan's scale and freedom of movement reinvigorate a quintessentially feminine form with strength, power and independence. Wind driven, *Fan* stands against, as well as sensitively responds to, the energetic forces of its environment. At this most intrinsic level, strength and fluidity are fundamental to both form and meaning.

Artists
Jennifer Turpin & Michaelie Crawford

Date 2003

Description
Wind activated kinetic artwork, 15.2 metres X 8.6 metres, concept and development only

Materials
Corten steel, bearings, weights, brake mech.

Location
Federation Mall, outside Old Parliament House, Canberra

Client
The Australian Federal Government

Competition
Winning competition proposal for celebration of Centenary of Women's Suffrage in Australia

The position, structure and kinetic properties of the artwork reflect Canberra's famous Land and Water Axis. Its supporting structure is centred on the Land Axis whilst the fluidly moving blades are aligned with the Water Axis. This essential connection binds the strength and energy of *Fan* to the underlying symbolism of the Nation's Capital.

The perpetually changing motion of this energetic and dynamically responsive form honours the spirit of change women have brought to Australian politics and society. Fluid, weightless and strong, *Fan* celebrates an inclusive society able to withstand forces that would weaken it whilst remaining sensitive to forces small and large that seek to change it for the better.