

# JERAMIE SCAHILL

*Highly Commended: Contemporary Art Awards 2017*

## Age is a Work of Art

*By Caitlin Eyre*

Created with the view that age and physical impairment should not be seen as a limitation to personal style, Jeramie Scahill's (b.1972) elegant and practical sculptural piece *Walking Stick* (2016) brings a sense of style, flair and high-quality design to the humble walking aide. The self-taught NSW-based artist, jeweller and sculptor flouts production line conformity to create lovingly handcrafted walking sticks that are impossible to recreate by machine. Inspired by the desire to transform the mundane and often unwanted accessory into a stylish, exciting and beautifully crafted work of art, Scahill has perfectly balanced the often opposing qualities of form, function and style.

Crafted from sterling silver and ebonised rosewood timber, the curved and gently tapering form of the walking stick is reminiscent of an ibis' beak and echoes the curvature of the human leg. The hand-forged sterling silver handle has been ergonomically sculpted to fit the curvature of either hand, thereby allowing comfort and flexibility for the user. The curves of silver lie flush with the ebony timber at the handle, mid-section and tip to create a seamless and flowing silhouette. While most walking sticks are crafted on a lathe and made of cane, Scahill's creation was hand-carved from rosewood, a timber selected for its tight grain and structural integrity. Grown in the Northern Territory on the Dorrigo Plateau, the rosewood used in the crafting of this piece is over 150 years old and has been hardened by the

effects of both a lightning strike and a bushfire.

The simple elegance and grace of Scahill's craftsmanship artfully conceal his thoughtful approach to the practical elements and ergonomics of walking stick design and use. Acutely aware of the necessity of the walking stick as an

essential tool for mobility and independence, Scahill was determined to create an object of beauty and unwavering reliability, durability and strength. In addition to the ergonomic handle, Scahill has also fitted the shaft of the walking stick with a sterling silver cap and a replaceable non-slip tip for comfort and safety. The walking stick has been designed to separate into two pieces in the interest of easy storage when not in use, which makes it particularly convenient for public transport users and travellers. The result of Scahill's craftsmanship and dedication to high-quality design is a sleek and polished work of art that brings beauty and style to the fore in a practical and necessary tool of daily life.



On this page, *Walking Stick* (2016), sterling silver and rosewood, 10 x 85cm.

*Image courtesy of the artist*

Jeramie Scahill's artwork can be viewed at:  
<http://www.contemporaryartawards/finalist-exhibition-2017.com>