



BEST FOOT FORWARD: Pedro Pires at work on his entry for the Lorne Sculpture Biennale.

Picture: MIKE DUGDALE

Pedro looks for common touch

JAIMEE WILKENS

ANGOLAN-BORN Portuguese artist Pedro Pires is a master at taking a common everyday object and repurposing it for his art.

In his entry for the 2018 Lorne Sculpture Biennale, Pires has taken the everyday plastic tub and created a series of humanoid sculptures varying in height and size.

This particular project started last year in Angola, where Pires began examining everyday objects that could be linked to all different social classes, rich or poor.

“When I applied to the biennale I looked at the theme and was very interested in exploring the problems that exist in terms of water in Australia,” he said.

“The boots in a way protect us from water, you know you

put them on to keep your feet clean.

“In Angola you often see people using these buckets to carry water, carrying them on top of their heads with fruit. It’s a very common object.”

Pires sourced all the materials for his sculptures locally, something that he considers very important.

“I really like to find these vulgar objects that people don’t really link to art and try and create something ready-made with them,” he said.

“The buckets that I have used are a little different to the ones I had pictured in my head when I came over, but this type is the one that is very common in Australia, cheap and accessible.”

Pires’ final installation will be a group of seven sculptures, which have been designed to act as a fountain if it rains.