



Holly Pepper with part of her work 'Crawling'.

Picture: Martin Kennealey

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Triggered by Dutch designers, Holly sculpts in concrete

CONCRETE isn't ordinarily considered an inspiring creative medium.

Holly Pepper (26), however, sees it a little differently to most people.

For the past six months, the sculptor and freelance designer has been ensconced in her backyard studio, creating a bulbous structure made of cast concrete that measures 7m by 1.5m, with each section weighing 200kg.

Dubbed *Crawling*, it is Pepper's entry in the upcoming annual Sculpture by the Sea exhibition at Cottesloe Beach, which last year attracted more than 70 WA, interstate and international artists and over 200,000 visitors.

"It's poured into a flexible rubber

mould, giving an organic shape. The inspiration came from the city environment – concrete is found in quite linear sterile buildings, and this is about trying to leach some natural objects or forms back into the environment."

The Curtin University design graduate brought new perspective to concrete after a three-month internship last year in Utrecht, Holland, where she worked with renowned Dutch designers Tejo Remy and Rene Veenhuizen.

"They were making concrete furniture and when I got back, I wanted to continue experimenting with the techniques I learnt with my own ideas and putting those into a sculptural

application," she said. Pepper, who works as a part-time school art technician, has progressively moved into the public art realm and squeezed in trips to Berlin, Sweden and the UK to check out the European scene.

She has been commissioned by the City of Swan to produce an entry artwork to the Altone Park Library and produced a large-scale kiln-formed glass sphere for a community facility in her native Great Southern town of Denmark, where her parents still live.

■ Sculpture by the Sea is on from March 1 to 19. Visit www.sculpturebythesea.com

Emilia Vranjes