Leading Sydney sculptor Ari Purhonen was born in Finland in 1953 and came to Australia in 1966. Since 1980 he has exhibited widely in Australia, the US, England and New Zealand. In recent years, as well as participating in the Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award—with Ether—and the National Sculpture Prize—with Spine (column)—Purhonen has sought involvement with public works ventures and has worked with architects and civic authorities including the Olympic Co-ordination Authority.

This exhibition includes work spanning nearly two decades, including two major free-standing sculptures, both titled Logic (1986–87), and a series of new wall-mounted works titled Speed of light that incorporate fresh fruit into Purhonen’s sculptural ‘equation’. Ari Purhonen’s sculptures can be likened to the measuring devices, tools and instruments that are used in scientific experiments. The works in this exhibition explore the changing effects of light on form and space over time. While his work extends the rationalist approaches and contexts of classically formal idioms, Purhonen is recognised as an Australian artist who has consistently explored philosophical issues through sculpture.

In 1992, Ari Purhonen was the subject of a book in the Australian artists series, with contributions by Jacques Delaruelle and John McDonald. A survey exhibition, Ari Purhonen, sculpture 1982–1990, was presented by the Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney, in 1990 and toured to Canberra and Brisbane.