

2019 MELBOURNE ART TRAMS ARTISTS ANNOUNCED



Melbourne International Arts Festival today announced seven new artist commissions and one re-creation of an original art tram to be transformed into eight major mobile artworks on the city's iconic trams this October.

Designs by Kent Morris, Nusra Latif Qureshi, and emerging artists Vandal, Sophie Westerman, Gene Bawden, Nyein Chan Aung and the Beaconhills Year 3 Collective will be represented in the the public art project, now in its seventh year, which invites artists to propose a design inspired by Melbourne's trams.

Melbourne Art Trams is a revival and re-imagining of the seminal *Transporting Art* program which ran from 1978 to 1993 and resulted in 36 hand-painted trams being rolled out across the Melbourne network. The project was relaunched in 2013 through a creative collaboration with Melbourne International Arts Festival, Creative Victoria, Public Transport Victoria and Yarra Trams, and in 2019 is sponsored by Principal Partner Officeworks.

One of the eight designs to be unveiled in October is a recreation of an original *Transporting Art* work by Lesley Dumbrell, commissioned in 1986. Dumbrell's design will be on the Melbourne tram tracks alongside seven new commissions from Victorian artists.

Nyein Chan Aung is a an industrial designer and artist who has created *The Late Supper*, an interpretation of the iconic painting *The Last Supper* by Leonardo da Vinci. His illustration depicts people having supper, however features unknown customers at Melbourne's renowned Supper Inn Chinese restaurant instead of Jesus Christ with his apostles.

Kent Morris is a Barkindji man based in Melbourne who believes Australia is currently experiencing the evolution of a collective celebration and acknowledgement of Aboriginal culture and stories. Morris' artwork is constructed from a single photograph taken while walking on Country. Apart from basic editing, digital information has not been added to, or taken away from, the original photograph.

Vandal is a Melbourne-based mixed media stencil artist, spray canner, paste-up and sharpie marker artist. Her work is set to brighten tram traveler's day with the colourful Marbaamarbaa garingali (multi-coloured native dog) taking people on their daily adventures around the city.

The Beaconhills Year 3 Collective have represented Melbourne in their tram design as a welcoming place through the gestures of our friends. The class have created a series of body shapes in a similar style to Keith Haring, with a focus on unity and harmony in the community.

Sophie Westerman is a Melbourne-based artist who works with printmaking to create architectural landscapes. Her tram design is compiled from a series of colour etchings titled *I think we were friends once, maybe*, representing connection but also isolation.

Gene Bawden is an academic and practicing communication designer and her work *Yours, mine, ours* is a design that celebrates the ambitions for diversity and inclusion within the city of Melbourne. Abstractly represented in the stripes of colour, pattern and geometric blocks, are letters that spell out this proclamation.

Nusra Latif Qureshi references the traditional art of South Asian miniature painting in her design. Her art work features a floral pattern from an antique French textile and pays homage to the title of Melbourne as the Paris of the south. The red in the design celebrates the vibrancy and richness of Melbourne's cultural life.

Lesley Dumbrell is recognised as a pioneer of the Australian women's art movement of the 1970s. Her original tram design, painted in 1986 was inspired by a trip to Italy where Dumbrell was drawn by the colour, costumes and music of a festival. For over forty years Dumbrell has been refining her technique of geometric abstract painting, injecting colour, light and emotion into an often precise painting style associated with the Colour Field Painters of the 1960s.

Victoria's Minister for Creative Industries, Martin Foley said: "These wonderful art trams show off and celebrate some of our most brilliant local artists to the many people who travel through our city every day. Congratulations to those chosen and I hope their work leaves a lasting impression for everyone who sees it."

Melbourne International Arts Festival Artistic Director, Jonathan Holloway said: "It's an absolute delight to be able to see these incredible designs taking over Melbourne's tram tracks. The Melbourne Art Trams are a Festival highlight and I encourage everyone to make a magical memory by riding around the city in one of these works of art."

Melissa Horne, Minister for Public Transport said: "Melbourne's trams are such an iconic part of our city, which is why we're proud they're again being used to highlight the work of many talented artists."

Nicholas Gindt, CEO Yarra Trams said: "We are proud to again collaborate with the Melbourne Festival and Victorian Government on this much-loved project, continuing our long tradition of supporting the festival. Melbourne locals and visitors alike are fond of both trams and art, so Melbourne Art Trams is the perfect combination to get people where they need to go – in style."

Jess Richmond, General Manager Marketing, Officeworks said: "We're really excited to be on board as the Principal Partner of the Melbourne Art Trams initiative for 2019/20. Officeworks is all about helping making bigger things happen for creative Australians across the country with our huge art supplies range, so it was only fitting that we got behind this initiative that celebrates talented Victorian artists."

The first tram will hit the tracks on 8 October with the other seven soon to follow and will remain on our streets until August 2020.

A People's Choice Award will be announced following the release of the trams, with the public able to vote for their favourite tram at festival.melbourne/arttrams

Principal Partner



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