

# **A GUIDE to MELBOURNE'S PUBLIC ART**

# Introduction

Melbourne is an artistic city. We have a number of renowned galleries, and have produced visual artists acclaimed around the world. This artistic tradition extends to our public spaces; the city is home to a thriving street art scene, and commissioned public artworks dot our CBD.

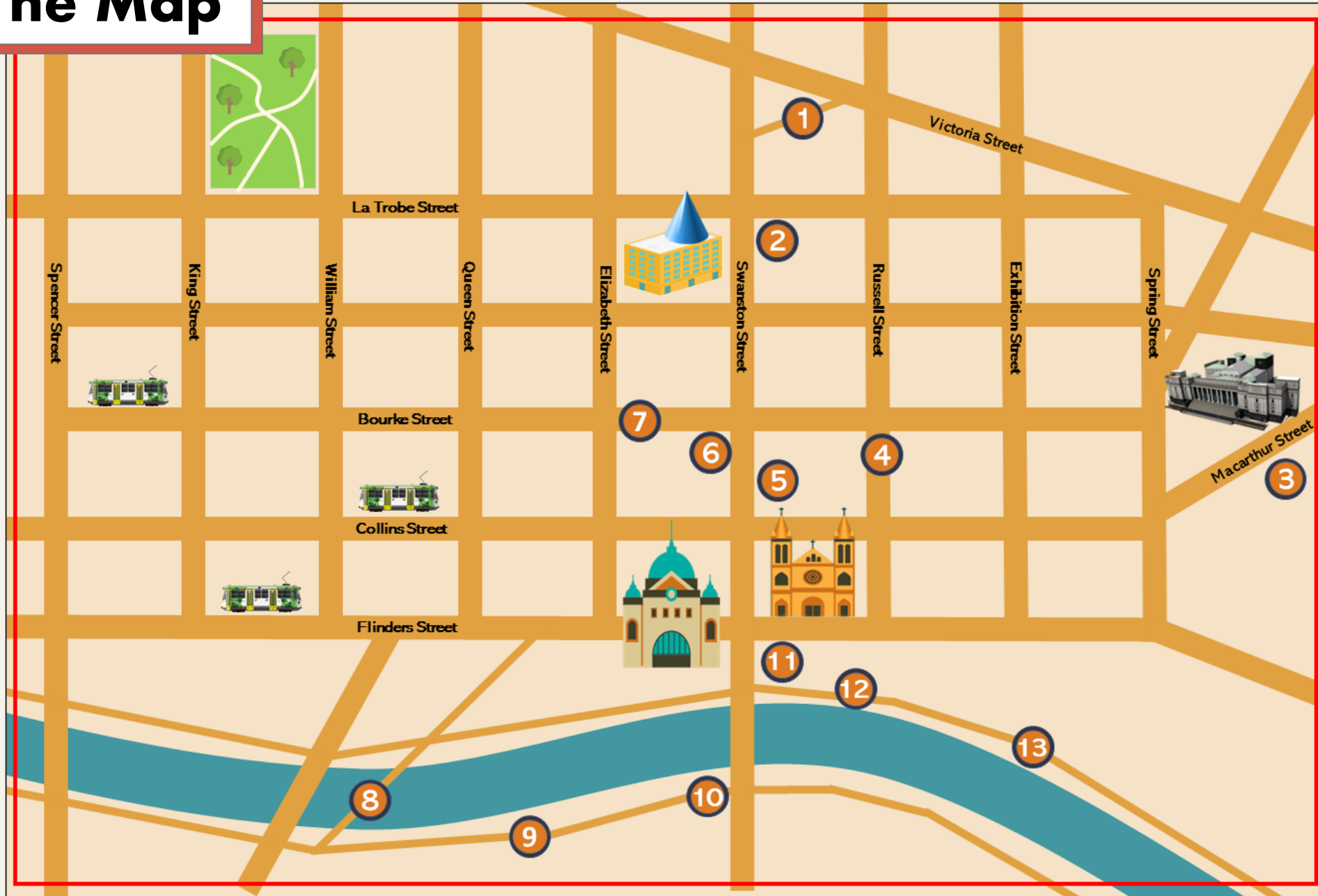
This is a short guide to some of these public artworks. It is not a comprehensive list, but focusses on some highlights across the central city area. The nature of street art –designed to be transitory – means these have been excluded.

The guide has been designed as a self guided walk and includes a map, but you can just read about the art if you prefer. More information about all of the featured works can be found [here](#). I hope you enjoy!

- The Museum of Lost Things



# The Map



# The Art

1. Standing By  
Tunnerminnerwait  
and  
Maulboyheenner
2. Architectural  
Fragment
3. The Great Scroll
4. Vessel, Craft and  
Beacon
5. Time and Tide
6. Three Businessmen  
Who Bought Their  
Own Lunch
7. The Public Purse
8. The Travellers
9. Ophelia
10. Dervish
11. Fearless Girl
12. Birrarung Wilam
13. Angel

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## STANDING BY TUNNERMINNERWAIT AND MAULBOYHEENNER

*Brook Andrew, Trent Walter*

CNR FRANKLIN and VICTORIA ST

Standing on the former site of Melbourne's gallows is this tribute to a pair of Indigenous men, executed for murder in 1842. Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner were sentenced to death, despite a plea for clemency from their own jury.

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## ARCHITECTURAL FRAGMENT

*Petrus Spronk*

328 SWANSTON ST (State Library)

Emerging from the pavement like an orc, this is Dutch artist Petrus Spronk's atypical tribute to the State Library. Spronk was inspired by the classical ruins he saw, while on holiday on the Greek island of Samos.

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## THE GREAT PETITION

*Susan Hewitt, Penelope Lee*

MACARTHUR ST (Burston Reserve)

In 1891, Victorian Suffragettes gathered 30 000 signatures on a petition 260 metres long, calling for the right to vote. Despite the 'Great Petition', as it was known, women would not be enfranchised in Victoria until 1908.

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## VESSEL, CRAFT and BEACON

*Chris Reynolds*

CNR RUSSELL and BOURKE ST

Sponsored by the Australian Metalworkers Union, this construction was designed to promote greater ties between industry and the arts. The steam punk style machine shows a bulbous 'Vessel' headed into the future, on the track of 'Craft', representing the AMU's members.

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## TIME and TIDE

*Akio Makigawa*

CNR SWANSTON and LT COLLINS ST

A work in three parts, depicting a tree (knowledge and the land), a flame (birth and transcendence) and a shell (the ocean). Creator Magikawa attempts to remind us of our connection to nature, while in the middle of the city.

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## THREE BUSINESSMEN WHO BOUGHT THEIR OWN LUNCH

*Allison Weaver, Paul Quinn*

CNR SWANSTON and BOURKE ST

Three figures from Melbourne's early European history (Batman, Swanston and Hoddle) are reimagined as goofy time travellers, gawping at the modern city they helped found. Removing them from their traditional context allows us to question their role in our history.

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## THE PUBLIC PURSE

*Simon Perry*

BOURKE ST MALL

A prototype for imaginative new public seating that never went any further, Simon Perry's popular sculpture is still usually found occupied by a few seated pedestrians, often lunching. The purse shape is a nod to the commercial surroundings of Bourke Street.

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## THE TRAVELLERS

*Nadim Karam*

SANDRIDGE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Ten large scale steel artworks trace the history of arrivals in Melbourne; from the original Indigenous inhabitants, through many subsequent waves of settlers and migrants. Situated on the old Sandridge Rail Bridge, Melbourne's first rail line.

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## OPHELIA

*Debora Halpern*

SOUTHBANK PROMENADE

A colourful reimagining of Ophelia, the tragic female lead from Hamlet. Halpern contrasts the bright presentation of her piece with its melancholy expression, asking us to reflect on love and loss. A companion piece to Angel (see below).

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## DERVISH

*Clement Meadmore*

SOUTHBANK (Near Art Centre Steps)

Like a giant iron pretzel, Clement Meadmore's 'Dervish' attempts to replicate the ritual dancers of the Sufi faith, often called 'whirling dervishes.' Tucked away at the foot of a staircase, this piece has been valued at more than \$1 million.

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## FEARLESS GIRL

*Kristen Visbal*

FEDERATION SQUARE

A replica of the famed statue originally placed to face down the bull of Wall Street, local legal firm Maurice Blackburn commissioned this copy to promote women's rights and gender equality.



The original 'Fearless Girl' appeared on Wall Street in 2017. Its sponsors, 'State Street', tried to have the Fed Square version removed for copyright violation, despite being created by the same artist.



The traditional owners of Melbourne call the central river 'Birrarung', meaning 'flowing water'. The first European arrivals thought the name was 'Yarra' due a misunderstanding.

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## BIRRARUNG WILAM

*Vicki Couzens, Lee Darroch, Treahna Hamm*

BIRRARUNG MARR (near ArtPlay)

Several interrelated artworks pay tribute to Melbourne's original inhabitants, who had a camp on this site. Traditional shields and camp mounds are depicted, alongside a pavement showing the landscape and its animals.

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## ANGEL

*Debora Halpern*

BIRRARUNG MARR (walk to MCG)

Debora Halpern's second featured artwork was commissioned for Australia's bicentennial in 1988, and presents a version the country in that moment; bright, brash and colourful, with tributes to Ken Done and Jenny Kee. Angel's original home was in the moat outside the NGV.