



# South Yarra Siding Reserve

## Where We Walk by Kent Morris



Artwork, Where We Walk, in the South Yarra Siding Reserve

“My art transforms the built environment and nature into new forms that reflect First Nations knowledge systems reshaping western frameworks, exploring complex histories and First Nations cultural continuity since time immemorial.”

**Kent Morris**

### First Nation artist and Barkindji man Kent Morris has created an artwork for the South Yarra Siding Reserve.

In 2021, the Metro Tunnel Project sought expressions of interest from Victorian First Nations artists to create a permanent public artwork within the South Yarra Siding Reserve. Kent Morris was selected by the arts advisory panel to develop artwork that responds to the rich cultural heritage of the area and concepts of moving on Country.

Titled *Where We Walk*, the central source of cultural inspiration for the design is the association of the site with stone knapping and the significant flaked stone artefacts uncovered at the place that speaks to its long connection with the Wurundjeri people.

Kent’s artwork aims to increase First Peoples cultural representation in the built environment and to provide a dedicated and considered public space for the exchange of stories, histories, images, and insights and to give visual representation to that which is often unseen. His art practice explores identity, connection to place and the continuing evolution of cultural practices whilst engaging audiences to question long-held frames of reference.

*Where We Walk* will be a cultural marker of respect, connection, and knowledge. It represents First Peoples knowledge embedded in Country throughout the area, and across the state and country. The artwork hopes to engage and inspire the community on their daily travels and visits, and encourage the public to open their hearts and minds, to look and listen deeply on their journey through the reserve and to embrace the knowledge embedded in Country.

Kent was selected from a shortlist of Victorian First Nations artists, by an advisory panel which included representatives from Creative Victoria, City of Stonnington and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. The team overseeing the legacy artwork worked closely with representatives from the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to ensure the artwork was respectful of Wurundjeri cultural values.



Artist, Kent Morris

“The overall sculptural form acknowledges and pays respect to the long occupation and daily activities of Wurundjeri people from time immemorial to the present day. Combining the form and sharp edges associated with stone tools and the contemporary built environment, it represents a merging of the past and the present and the multiple uses of the site over time as a place of travel, cultural activity and social engagements.”

Kent Morris



Artwork, Where We Walk

## Exploring the artwork

- 1 Native birds**

Waang (or Waa) the crow features in Wurundjeri Woiwurrung creation stories and is perched high upon the sculpture overlooking the park, protecting Country, all who pass by, and the layers of history and generations of occupation and activity below the surface upon which we all walk.
- 2 Interior triangles**

Interior triangular cavities painted blue, point up to the sky and down to the water signifying our important place on the earth between the sky and water and the significance of these elements for Wurundjeri Woiwurrung people in caring for Country.
- 3 Sculpted stone**


Inspired by the site's association with stone knapping and the significant flaked stone artefacts uncovered at the site. The artefacts speak to the long connection of Wurundjeri people to the site over many generations and to the important stories and insights embedded in Country under our feet where we walk.
- 4 Sculpture shape**

The shape has been designed to evoke spear heads and other stone tools and the contemporary built environment. It represents a merging of the past and the present and the multiple uses of the site over time as a place of travel, cultural activity and social engagements. The intersecting diamond shapes are a feature of south-eastern First Peoples design iconography.
- 5 Basalt pavers**

Basalt tiles are arranged in the outline form of a knapped stone artefact, referencing stone artefact scatters and the numerous stone flakes and tools found at the Siding Reserve. Basalt is a volcanic rock found in many cultural sites on Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Country and was used by Wurundjeri people for stone tool production and other culturally significant activities.

### More information

 [metrotunnel.vic.gov.au](http://metrotunnel.vic.gov.au)

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