



# Metro Tunnel Creative Program

## State Library Station



**Creative  
Program**



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# About the Creative Program

## Background

The Metro Tunnel Creative Program ran from 2018 to 2025, curating temporary artworks and events to enhance Melbourne city life alongside the construction of the Metro Tunnel.

The focus of the program was to encourage community interaction with construction sites and support local businesses at the coalface between site boundaries and city life.

A book, *Embellish: a celebration of the Metro Tunnel Creative Program*, was published in late 2025, showcasing many of the projects produced within the program.

## Awards

The Metro Tunnel Creative Program was recognised in a number of awards categories:

Finalist, Arts and Events category of the 2024 Melbourne Awards

Gold, 2022 Melbourne Design Awards, for Albert Road Reserve Pop-up park in the Urban Design category

Silver, 2022 Melbourne Design Awards, for the Huxleys' 'As camp as Christmas' in the Pop-ups, display, exhibit and set design category

Finalist, 2022 Victorian Premier's Design Awards, for Metro Tunnel Creative Program

Gold, 2021 Melbourne Design Awards, in the Urban Design category

Silver, 2021 Gov Design Awards, in the Urban Design category

Best in Class Accolade, 2020 Good Design Awards, in the Architectural Design: Urban Design and Public Spaces category, for outstanding design and innovation across our program

Finalist, 2020 Victorian Premier's Design Awards, for the program of works at our Parkville Precinct

Silver, 2020 Melbourne Design Awards, in the Wayfinding category, for Weekdays Design Studio's works at Town Hall Precinct

Finalist, 2019 Victorian Premier's Design Awards, for The Huxleys

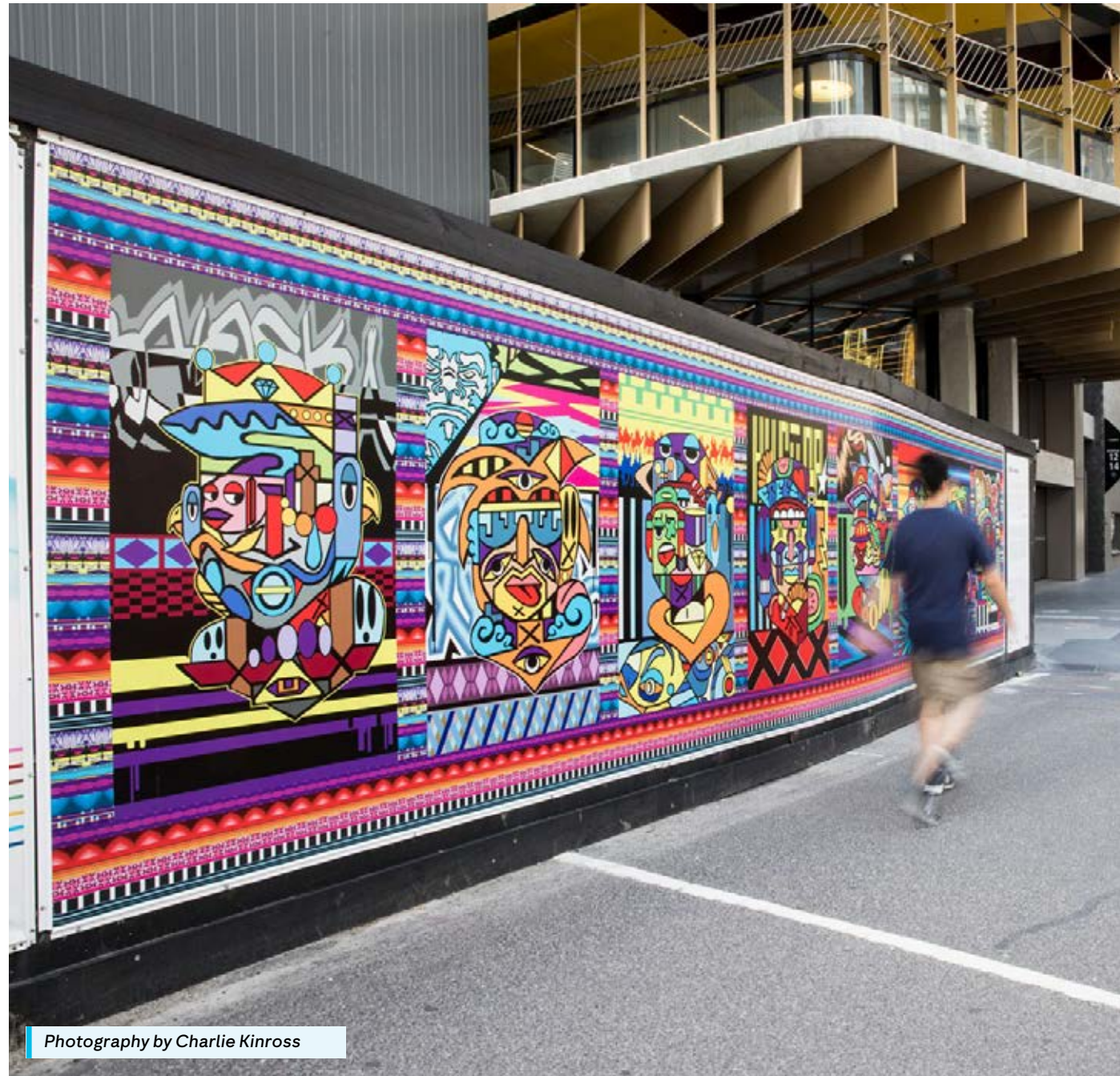
Finalist, 2019 Victorian Premier's Design Awards, for Pretty Little Things

Gold, A'Design Award, for Pretty Little Things



# Josh Muir: Josh X Muir

2018



Photography by Charlie Kinross

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that the following story contains mentions of a deceased person. The late artist's estate has granted permission for his name and images of his artworks to be used.

The Metro Tunnel Creative Program was the Major Sponsor of JOSH X MUIR, a solo exhibition by Ballarat based Yorta Yorta/ Gunditjmara multimedia artist Josh Muir (1991 – 2022), presented by the Koorie Heritage Trust in November 2018.

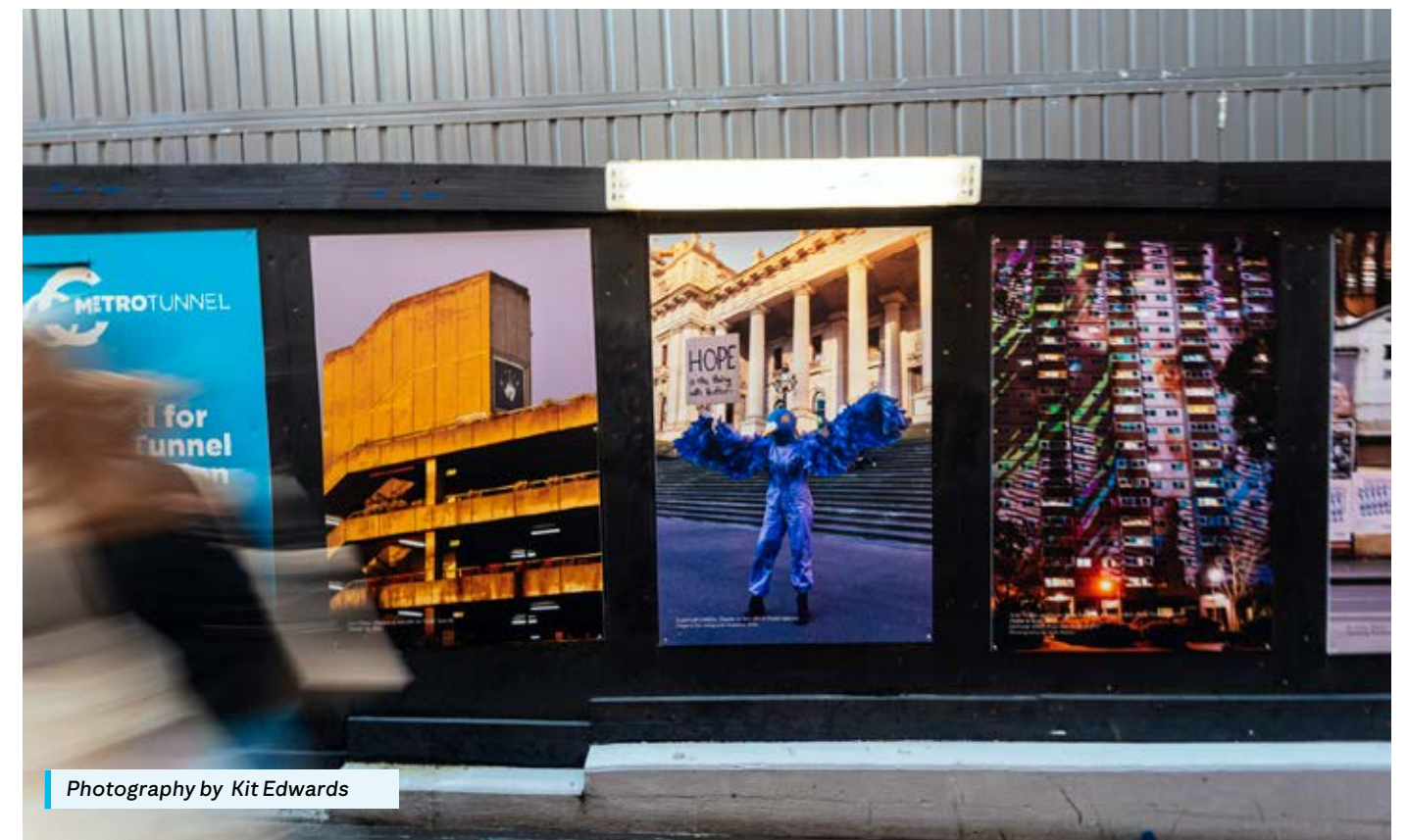
The artworks on these hoardings are from the exhibition which was a continuation of the artist's

journey of self-exploration in which he surprised with his colourful and chaotic digital prints on aluminium. The works include contemporary street and pop art references (including a homage to the American artist KAWS who himself began as a graffiti artist) but also incorporate imagery from his own Aboriginal heritage reflecting a strong sense of place and connection to community.

Josh Muir (1991-2022), JOSH X MUIR 2018, courtesy of the artist's estate

# RMIT Open Day student artwork

2019



Photography by Kit Edwards

For the 2019 Open Day, the Metro Tunnel Creative Program showcased student artwork on the construction hoardings around RMIT.

The series of images represented the breadth of practice across the School of Art including; fine art, craft, photography and art in public space.

The School of Art at RMIT is an international site for innovative and diverse art, craft and photographic practices and research.



# Kelly Koumalatsos: Benim Wile – To Cover Over with Possum Blanket

2019



Photography by James Henry

## About the artwork

This work is based on Kelly's original artwork that won the Metro Tunnel Creative Program 2D Award at Koorie Heritage Trust as part of the 2018 Koorie Art Show.

The artworks presented here are adoptions of her award-winning artwork, Benim Wile: To cover over with possum blanket, which draws on the imagery of stitched possum pelts to create imaginary blankets which are now metaphorically covering parts of the city.

## About the artist

Kelly is an important visual artist working in regional Victoria. Her arts practice explores various aspects of both her Aboriginal (Wergaia/Wemba Wemba) and Greek heritage.

Kelly has been working with possum skins and possum skin imagery in her artworks for many years. From her early work recreating real possum skin cloaks, to her more recent artworks using screen printing and digital imagery of possum fur, working with the imagery of possum fur in her printmaking and installation artworks has allowed Kelly to reconnect and reclaim aspects of her Indigenous heritage.

Kelly's artistic practice has drawn on research into historic photographic images of Koorie people from across Victoria wearing possum skin cloaks. Possum skin cloaks had a very important role in traditional Aboriginal societies, as both a means of keeping dry and warm, but also as an important cultural item, often incorporating imagery and markings of cultural significance, and handed down within families over generations.

# Miles Howard-Wilks: Transport paintings

2019



Photography by Kit Edwards

## About the artwork

These artworks of reimagined landscapes selected for the Metro Tunnel Creative Program are typical of Miles Howard-Wilks' art practice. An avid public transport user and a keen observer and lover of Melbourne, public transport and magpies, Miles has created a series of slightly surreal landscapes that pay homage to Australian flora and fauna as well as Victorian landmarks and infrastructure. After travelling by train, tram or on foot, Miles returns to the studio and paints his land and seascapes from memory.

## About the artist

Miles Howard-Wilks is a multi-disciplinary artist, specialising in painting, ceramics, photography and digital art.

He has worked in the studio at Arts Project Australia since 2000 and has had several solo exhibitions and been in numerous group shows.

His work is held in a number of public and private collections including National Gallery of Australia (NGA), National Gallery of Victoria (NGV), Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) and in the City of Melbourne's collection.

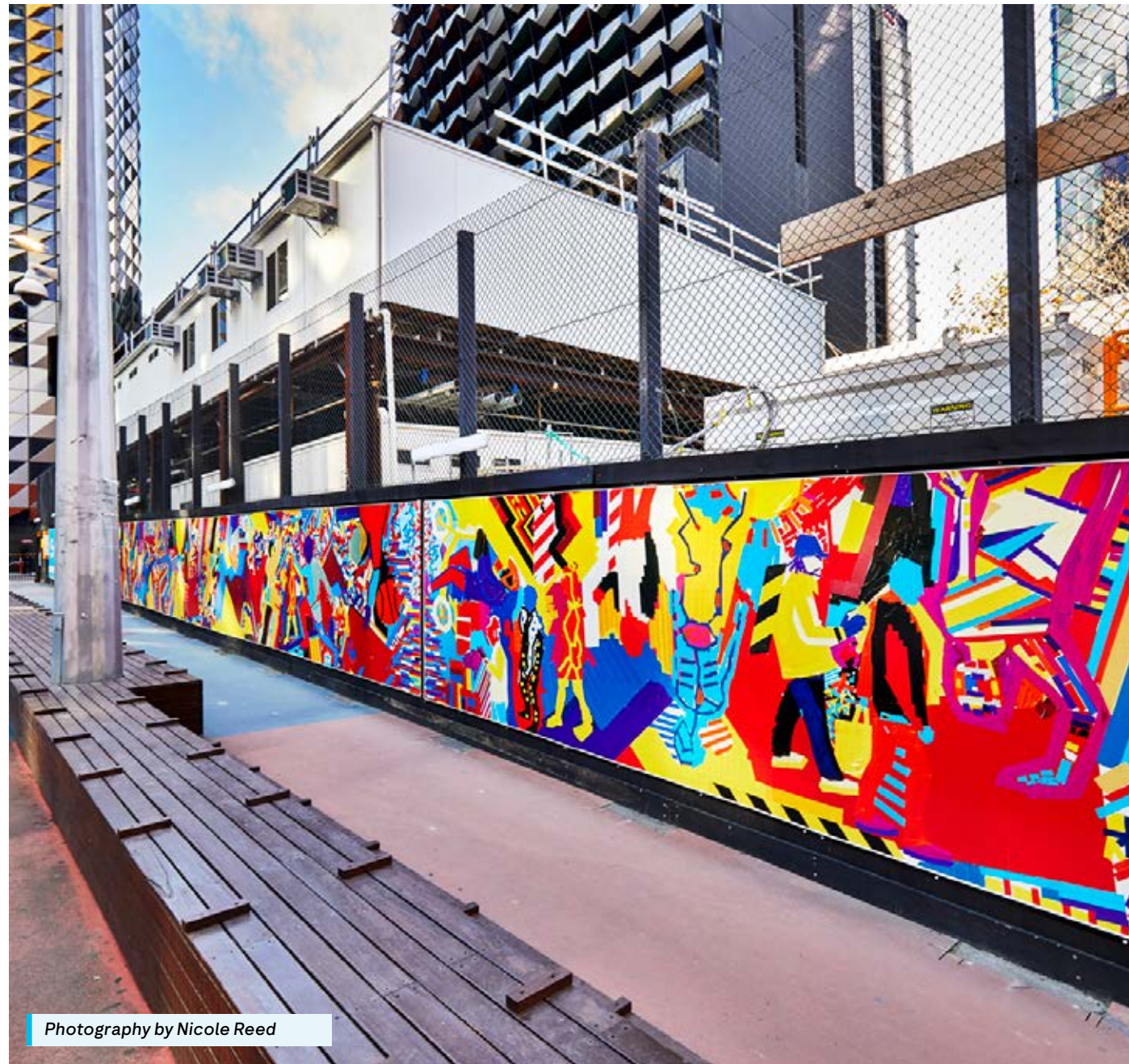
Arts Project Australia is a leading studio and gallery supporting artists with an intellectual disability, promoting their work and advocating for their inclusion in contemporary art practice. Based in Melbourne, they are known globally as an innovative centre for excellence.

APA artists have been included in exhibitions all over the world and are represented in countless public and private collections.



# Paola Ibarra: The Marks

2019



Photography by Nicole Reed

## Artist statement

“In this work, I have invited the public to collaborate and create the art together. First, I took pictures of the people in the area, then I drew the body outlines onto wooden panel structures and finally, I took these panels to the public spaces near the site, inviting people to add tape by following three guidelines: do not cross existing lines, lines should be straight and create open lines or designs. Over six days, 180 people participated in creating the work.”

## About the artist

[Paola Ibarra](#) is an artist from Mexico who has worked mostly across Mexico City, Beijing and Melbourne,

where she studied her Master of Arts in Public Space at RMIT. Her works are temporary and participatory installations in public spaces, using a range of colourful material such as tape, paint, and recycled materials.

The RMIT School of Art is known for its diverse and internationally-renowned creative programs led by accomplished artists, photographers and professional staff who strive for excellence in pedagogy, research and innovation.

# Samara Clifford: Silver Ghillie

2019



## About the artwork

Melbourne photographer Samara Clifford plays on the concept of 'hiding in plain sight' with her Silver Ghillie – a magical character based on traditional Ghillie suits used by military snipers for camouflage. But Clifford's Ghillie is a sparkling, shining creature clad in foil. Despite this eye-catching attire, the ghillie moves about the city largely unnoticed (or wilfully ignored?) by passers-by.

The Metro Tunnel Creative Program commissioned Clifford to shoot the Silver Ghillie around some of its construction sites which, by being covered in art and design, are also 'hiding in plain sight'.

## About the artist

Graduating from Curtin University in 1996 with a BA Design (Photography) with high distinctions, [Samara](#)



[Clifford](#) travelled the world, working with photographers, advertising and digital agencies for 10 years.

Producing photoshoots for record companies in London, and managing a creative team of 40 people, she also exhibited, and sold out a two person show in Belfast.

In 2009 she returned to Australia to begin her own photographic business and is now Melbourne based.

The Silver Ghillie concept was Samara's creative response to the theme 'Camouflage' provided by Wunder Gym – a Collingwood based practical art program that allows creatives to extend their skills and practice through unique project briefs, artist mentorships and group exhibitions.



# Weekdays: NOLA

2020



Photography by James Henry

Local studio Weekdays has revitalised Melbourne's CBD post-lockdown with colourful and welcoming designs. You'll find them on Metro Tunnel construction hoardings around the State Library Station site in the NOLA (north of La Trobe) precinct.

## About the artist

We spoke with Todd Vanneste of Weekdays to learn more about the design studio's creative process.

**Tell us about Weekdays – how did it start and who's involved?**

I started Weekdays 8 years ago. It started out as a solo practice after I'd done a few years of designing in-house and found I wanted to work on projects I was interested in. The Weekdays team has grown to a core team of five with a collective of others that get involved where suited.

**What's your design / work philosophy?**

My overall philosophy is to relax and enjoy. Work-wise, I'm inspired by the timeless design we pull from the past and reinterpret for a contemporary setting, like we've done for this project.

**What was the inspiration behind the design for the NOLA hoardings for Metro Tunnel?**

We pulled a lot of inspiration from the urban landscape – manmade and organic – to graphically

reinterpret our environment. We looked at themes around transport, signage, nature and positive thought. Through designing the artwork we ended up creating our own visual language from wording, images, icons, shapes and gestures.

**One of the construction hoardings your team has painted surrounds a concrete pump. What was your solution to making something functional and industrial look amazing?**

The area has become almost like its own little tunnel world, as when you walk past the hoarding you are surrounded by the artwork. Our intention was to have it feel like its own little world that you have to enter and exit, with the construction being completely secondary as you pass through this visual portal.

**How do you think passers-by will respond to these artworks?**

I hope visitors don't take on too much of a direct response but more of subliminal colour and visual imprint response in the back of their consciousness – more of a colour exposure for a brief moment than a direct response to the messaging.

**If these designs had their own Spotify playlist, what would be on it?**

Intergalactic by the Beastie Boys and Mulatu Astatke by Tezeta.

# Sarah Walker and Mike Greaney: Faces of Fringe 2020 – In Your Dreams

2020 – 2021



Photography by Anne-Marie De Boni

Plans scuppered. Shows with their wings clipped. This year's [Melbourne Fringe Festival](#) was meant to look a lot different – but even though the world changed, Fringe artists didn't stop dreaming.

Metro Tunnel Creative Program and Melbourne Fringe Festival are pleased to once again present a new series of works by local artists.

In this outdoor exhibition, photographer Sarah Walker captures Fringe artists faced with a new reality and at their most vulnerable. Artist Mike Greaney then sets them free by illustrating the plans and dreams they were unable to achieve because of, well, 2020.

These are the faces of Melbourne Fringe 2020 – photographed in reality, and let loose in dreams.



# Stephen Banham: Here, There

2020



Photography by James Henry

## Artist statement

“Here, There offers a continuous and playful typographic loop, generating a sense of endless activity, energy, time and, above all, the sense of repetition we experience as we constantly move from here to there.”

## About the artist

Often described as a “typographic evangelist”, [Stephen Banham](#) is a typographer and

educator. His typographic explorations, across some 18 books primarily centre on the cultural life of letterforms.

Banham’s design work and writings have appeared in countless international publications and design events, from Barcelona to Beirut, New Zealand to New York. A board member and assessor of the International Society of Typographic Designers, Dr Banham also lectures in typography in the RMIT School of Design.

# Toni Magor: Here and Now

2020



Photography by James Henry

Artist Toni Major with her artwork at the State Library Station construction site.

## Artist statement

*‘During COVID-19 I used paint to record the new look of familiar places, fascinated by the novel quietness of the streets, the sparsely-peopled halls of the market and the revealed fluoro presence of construction workers and delivery riders who continue to work in this corner of the suddenly tranquil city.’*

## About the artist

Toni Magor resides and works in the north of Melbourne’s CBD. She started painting postcards while travelling overseas in her twenties as a way of sharing her experience with friends and family back home (in the days before smart phones!).

She has practised various other forms of painting and printmaking since then and recently rediscovered her love of watercolour as a means of exploring our city during the pandemic.



# Midsumma: Memory Lane

2021



Photography by James Henry

Midsumma is Australia's premier queer arts and cultural organisation, bringing together a diverse mix of LGBTQIA+ artists, performers, communities and audiences.

In 2021, the Metro Tunnel Creative Program and [Midsumma Festival](#) collaborated to showcase the strength and adaptability of our artists and culture makers. To commemorate Midsumma's history, artists were invited to take a trip down "memory lane" and provide a visual representation of some of their favourite Midsumma memories.

Participating artists: Tomboy Bill, Matthew Chan, Chelle Destefano, Selwyn Hoffmann, Matto Lucas, Kyle KM, KJ, Suzanne Phoenix, Caoife Power, Lucy Weir.

## Silent Disco

Led by the infamous [Guru Dudu](#), the Metro Tunnel Creative Program took participants on Silent Disco tours of the NOLA (North of La Trobe Street) precinct.

The groups shimmied and sashayed through the streets, grooving past our Memory Lane exhibition on Franklin Street as part of Midsumma Festival, as well as the State Library station sheds, exploring some of the hidden pockets of the area.

# Alan Stewart: our truth, our history

2021



Photography by James Henry

## About the artwork

our truth, our history asks the viewer to question the 'truths' that are held about this land and its first people, doing so through large-scale photographs taken across the Kulin Nations, lands within what is now referred to as Victoria. Stewart's landscapes, exhibited within the CBD, reveal that the connection to country is as true within the urban environment as it is within the bushland he depicts. His images make a connection with memory, history and possible futures on this land.

## About the artist

Taungurung and Filipino man Alan Stewart uses photography to document his family, community and personal journey as a First Nations person. Reflecting stories from his childhood – first in Manila and then in Melbourne – Alan's pictures showcase his rich Filipino and Australian Aboriginal backgrounds. Alan has been mentored by the RMIT School of Art.

our truth, our history was commissioned by Photo Australia and the Metro Tunnel Creative Program for [PHOTO 2021](#).



# Kenta Cobayashi: Photographic Universe

2021



Photography by James Henry

## About the artwork

Kenta Cobayashi's photographic work is made up of two critical processes: capturing, and manipulating. A lifetime spent online and playing computer games has primed the Japanese artist to see the potential of image manipulation – a common digital activity – as an artistic tool, an opportunity “to touch this world and build rich communication with it”.

Cobayashi uses the ‘smudge’ tool of Photoshop, the tool used to drag the image “as if making a brushstroke on paint”. The effect imbues the image with a giddy, ethereal sense of movement, suspending all questions around where photography ends and processing begins.

## About the artist

Kenta Cobayashi was born in 1992 in Kanagawa, Japan, and currently lives and works in Tokyo and

Kanagawa. He regards photography as to question what it is to capture ‘truth’, and draws an outline of this question through a wide variety of approaches.

Kenta has had the solo exhibitions Photographic Universe, Fotografia Europe, Chiostrì di San Pietro (Reggio Emilia, 2019) and Insectautomobility/What is an aesthetic?, G/P gallery (Tokyo, 2017). His works have been featured in major group exhibitions such as TOKYO Before/After, The Japan Foundation, Toronto (Canada 2018); Hello World – For the Post-Human Age, ART TOWER MITO (Ibaraki, 2018); and GIVE ME YESTERDAY, Fondazione Prada (Milan, 2016). His works have been added to a collection at the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco and the Japan Foundation.

Photographic Universe was commissioned by Photo Australia and the Metro Tunnel Creative Program for PHOTO 2021.

# Felicity Hammond: Fault Line

2021



Photography by James Henry

## About the artwork

‘Faults’ and ‘folds’ are not just terms associated with natural geology – they are also used when speaking of financial instability. As urban centres in global cities are upturned by a global pandemic and the resulting social and economic turmoil, questions are raised about the function, meaning and morphology of these traditional meeting points.

Presented in an area undergoing vast urban transformation, Fault Line transforms the utopian renders that are often used to advertise developments. Torn and creased, the manipulated utopian render embodies the fragile surface of urban space, asking us to consider the role we play in shaping the future of cities.

## About the artist

An artist and educator based in London, Felicity Hammond has developed a practice that both uses

and critiques photography, fusing the photographic image with installation. Her expanded approach to photography has been widely recognised through awards such as British Journal of Photography's International Photography Award and Foam Talent.

With an MA in Photography from Royal College of Art in 2014, Hammond is currently undertaking TECHNE-funded research in the Contemporary Art Research Centre at Kingston University, looking at digital representations of the built environment and their relationship with site. Throughout her career, Hammond has worked with major institutions including Tate Modern, The Whitechapel Gallery, The Photographer's Gallery and The Saatchi Gallery, and her work is held in international collections.

Fault Line was commissioned by Photo Australia and the Metro Tunnel Creative Program for PHOTO 2021.



# Nico Krijno: GONDWANA BATHOLITH (1) Composition with both geological and photographic time

2021



Photography by James Henry

## About the artwork

A meditation on the fragility of our environment and the transience of the marks we leave behind, Nico Krijno's GONDWANA BATHOLITH (1) Composition with both geological and photographic time brings us into a space where nature and humanity communicate together. This is a place where late-Precambrian metamorphic sandstone becomes the site of spiritual exercise, as significant and vulnerable as any sentient life.

Informed by ancient rock paintings and engravings believed to bring fortune to the hunt, Krijno's work speaks of the ways human presence transforms a landscape – to beautiful or devastating effect.

## About the artist

Based in South Africa, Nico Krijno's photography exists at the intersection of performance, painting, montage and sculpture. He builds sculptures out of discarded materials and continues to rearrange

them over and over, photographing them during this process. These photographs are then re-processed and altered again into new forms – using Photoshop, paint and/or collage – creating new narratives and meaning. His explorations represent an experiment into the perceived truths of objects, and the medium of photography and its history. Reminiscent of traditional still lifes, Nico's photographs are loaded with humorous visual information, challenging the boundaries of the still image with his ever-changing mise-en-scène. His work has been presented at Unseen Amsterdam and Photo London, and his latest book, *How To Leave Your Body Behind*, was published by b.frank books in 2019.

GONDWANA BATHOLITH (1) Composition with both geological and photographic time was commissioned by Photo Australia and the Metro Tunnel Creative Program for PHOTO 2021.

# Home / Work

2021



Photography by James Henry

We invited artists from the Metro Tunnel Creative Program Artist Pool to reflect on working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic. The result is Home / Work – a group exhibition exploring how local artists, designers, performers and more forged productive, creative spaces at home during Melbourne's lockdown.

Home / Work features Nicole Bester, Naomi Bishop, Ross Calia, Veronica Caven Aldous, Matthew Clarke, Lucy Davison, Sophie deLightful, Giovanna De Silva, Leslie Goldman, Goodie, Sarah Hogan, Jasmine Holmes, David 'Meggs' Hooke, Tegan Iversen, Jessica Jane, Damon Kowarsky, Kristina Kraskov, Chrissie Krebs, Manda Lane, Youbi Lee, Jess Lowther, Vicki Mason, Helen Mathwin, Glenn Morgan, Michelle Odgers, Kate Pullen, Noël Skrzypczak, Beck Storer, Sally Walk, Glen Walton and Alison White.





# Beci Orpin: Collage

2021



Photography by Chris Middleton

## About the artwork

This artwork is a large-scale collage that features papers treated with a variety of materials – inks, gouache, acrylics, pastels, colour pencils and watercolour.

Each piece has been included for a reason: its colour, shape, texture or its connection to the site on which it appears. Architecture, local history, culture and indigenous flora are echoed within the collage in both abstract and more obvious form. The combination of old and new, made and found, reflect the growth and depth of Melbourne as a city.

The collage is designed to continually surprise the viewer – especially those who pass by often and can discover something new each time. The overall look is modern and colourful, but on closer observation the viewer will see the historical context.

## About the artist

Beci Orpin is a local creative practitioner in Melbourne, Australia. Her work occupies a space between illustration, design and craft. Beci has run a freelance studio for over 20 years, catering to a wide range of clients, as well as exhibiting her work both locally and internationally. Beci's work is described as colourful, graphic, bold, feminine and dream-like.

# RMIT School of Communication Design graduating students

2021



Photography by Peter Glenane

## About the artwork

A huge new artwork featuring art from 184 graduating RMIT students has been installed on a Metro Tunnel worksite. The artwork is more than 80m long and 2m high and is on display on the Metro Tunnel acoustic shed on Franklin Street.

The artwork is a collaboration between the Metro Tunnel Creative Program and the Graduating Cohort of the Bachelor of Design (Communication Design) 2021, RMIT School of Design, Communication Design Program.

There are two different parts to the work. One is called 'Beyond the Selfie' and came from a concept by student Madison Daffy.

*'I love faces and always have. I think nearly every assignment I have ever done has featured faces in one way or another. I think they are the perfect way to represent someone's identity, you wear your face every day. I have always loved seeing the different ways people wear theirs and how they see themselves. I think the perfect way to represent everyone in the cohort is through a self-portrait designed and made by them, representing how they see themselves as a designer and a person.'*

*This concept celebrates individuality, talent and togetherness; individuality is relatable, talent is respected, and togetherness is longed for, all qualities that audiences can relate to.'*

The second is called 'Off Grid' and is inspired by how designers use grids to organise their messages, how Melbourne is planned on a grid, our rail network is visually expressed by a grid. The design is a nod to how, in times of disruption, we go Off Grid.

This grid is a visual narrative, designed by Lucinda Nelson, and populated with imagery from 184 graduating students and several of their colleagues in second year, expresses the life of a student in two years of a pandemic. Distance, interruption, disconnection have played a role in each student's educational experience. Some students were in Melbourne, some were in regional areas, some were interstate, and some were overseas, all were connected virtually, through the screens of their computers and all have collaborated on and have been joined together through this project.

All have been connected by a virtual grid, all have been disrupted, all have in some way been Off Grid.



# Faces of Fringe 2021: The World You Want To Make

2021



### About the artwork

Exceptional artist and photographer Sarah Walker and illustrator Sophie McPike have created a series of intimate portraits featuring a diverse array of Fringe Festival artists.

Forming a pathway through the city, this series of fantastical outdoor artworks turns the Metro Tunnel

acoustic shed at Franklin Street into a bright new realm of artistic possibilities.

Taking Fringe artists out of the ordinary and placing them in new, speculative worlds, Face of Fringe will reimagine how we perceive local artists as we step into their imaginations.

# Rudi Williams: Vantage Point

2021



### Artist statement

“Vantage Point” is a photographic response to the Metro Tunnel excavation sites from surrounding architecture and infrastructure.

After viewing the layers of history at the Flinders Quarters archaeological site visit, conducted in August 2018, I began to think about the ephemeral history that circulates around construction sites as the infrastructure changes.

Between 2018 and 2019 I photographed the excavation sites with two different cameras, a tripod mounted 5x4 view camera and a handheld 35mm camera, to create a fractured impression of a city in transformation from the vantages of surrounding buildings and streetscapes.’

### About the artist

Born in Italy in 1993 and based in Naarm/Melbourne, Rudi Williams is an artist and teacher who works with historic and contemporary image-making processes.

Williams’ working process is driven by intuition, chance, and the implicit speeds of the photographic processes she utilises. Her photographs and installations are meditations on the history of photography, the process of recollection and the passing of time.



# Joseph Meyers: Miss First Nation 2021 for Midsumma 2022

2022



Photography by Joseph Meyers

Cerulean, Miss First Nation 2021 winner

The Metro Tunnel Creative Program supported the Miss Photogenic contest at Miss First Nation as part of the 2021 YIRRAMBOI and Midsumma Festival.

The contestants were Lady Gargles, Estelle, Cerulean, Karma Bites, Stone Motherless Cold and Peaches and the 2021 Miss First Nations crown went to Cerulean.

The official event photographer, Joseph Meyers, shot the contestants at Holmesglen TAFE's Victorian Tunnelling Centre. Now, all of Melbourne can see the final images on Metro Tunnel hoardings as part of the 2022 Midsumma Festival.

On display from 23 January to 28 February in the Scott Alley laneway off Flinders Lane and in the outdoor gallery found on the hoardings of the Franklin St acoustic shed, beside City Baths.

# Move it, move it!

2022



Photography by James Henry

## About the artwork

The Metro Tunnel Creative Program asked members of the Artist Pool to respond to the theme of 'movement', capturing the elation and joy of being on the move.

The resulting 30 artworks comprise 'Move it, move it!', on display in the Franklin Street Frames opposite Melbourne City Baths.

## Participating artists:

Aimee Timpson, Andy Robertson, Anna White,

Britt Salt, Elizabeth Dalton Hooker, Gabrielle Leah New and Carolyn Cardinet, Helena Pantsis, Jen Valender, Jessica Jane, Jingwen (Jina) He, John Lycette, Juliet Miranda Rowe, Kapugama Geeganage Somasiri Lankatillake, Luis Felipe Fanti, Magdalene Carmen, Manda Lane, Matthew Clarke, Michael Doolan, Mond Qu, Nat Grant, Nicole Chidgey, Rhys Cousins, Ryley Clarke, Simon Beuve, Tania Matilda, Tegan Iversen, Veronica Caven Aldous, Vicki Mason, Wina Jie, Youbi Lee.



# Aphids: Urgent art for urgent times

2022



Photography by Theresa Harrison

The Metro Tunnel Creative Program celebrates 28 years of artist-led experimental art organisation [Aphids](#) with a large-scale photo series in the Franklin Street frames.

The collection of 30 photos feature collaborators from Aphids projects over the last decade, including the artist community, workers from the gig-economy, a funeral director, a pizza shop owner and other participants around the world.

# Henry Trumble: Unearthed studio visits

2022



Photography by Kit Edwards

## Crushed, fired, melted down and reimagined

Eight artists have turned archaeological fragments uncovered from the Metro Tunnel dig site behind the Young & Jackson pub, into new works showing at [Unearthed](#) at Craft Victoria this October. These fragments, some of many thousands discovered during the dig, were not significant enough to be retained for heritage purposes so they are, in essence, 'discards'.

This series of photographs by Henry Trumble captures

the artists at work in their studios: Ruby Aitchison, Claire McArdle, Jack Balfour, Juan Castro, Dale Hardiman, Jenna Lee, Tantri Mustika and Iluka Sax-Williams.

## About the artist

[Henry Trumble](#) has lived and worked in London, New York, and Berlin, and is now based in Melbourne. His practice engages new and traditional photographic processes and draws from an interest in the way we create our world.



# Theresa Harrison: Glimpses of Momentum

2022



Photography by James Henry

## About the artwork

In June 2022, the Metro Tunnel Creative Program commissioned photographer Theresa Harrison to document the creation of a new work, *Momentum* by Women's Circus. *Momentum* is a public, site-specific circus performance which invites the audience to take a journey, experiencing moments of connectedness, change and possibility.

## About the artist

[Theresa Harrison](#) has been working, collaborating and collecting images within the Melbourne performing arts world for 15 years. Her work has a sense of playful drama while endeavouring to capture authenticity and connection.

## About Momentum by Women's Circus

*Momentum* is co-commissioned by Arts Centre Melbourne and the Metro Tunnel Creative Program as part of [Alter State](#), a major disability arts festival celebrating contemporary art and live performance by artists from Australia and Aotearoa (New Zealand).

Learn more about [Momentum by Women's Circus](#).

## Momentum performers

- Tarn Scully
- Anso Swann Biguet
- Vivienne Halat
- Dr Melinda Smith OAM
- Creatrix Tiara
- Emma J Hawkins
- roya the destroya

## Momentum crew

- Co-directors: Jo Dunbar and Tarn Scully
- Rigging Designer and Rigger: Franca Stadler
- Project Manager: Alison Neville
- Production Designer: Jac Antcliff
- Sound Designer: Sharyn Brand
- Production Stage Manager: Reis Low
- Producer: Steph Cox (Women's Circus General Manager)

# State Library Victoria collection: Transporting Victoria

October 2022 - 2023



Courtesy - State Library Victoria Collection

This collection of images from State Library Victoria spans 1875 to the mid-1950s. The images capture the spirit of the time, as much as an insight into the rail infrastructure of the day.

We've come a long way in our rail journey, since the first steam railway line in Australia was launched in 1854, running from Flinders Street to what is now known as Port Melbourne.

From these first trains to the underground X'Trapolis, the advent of trams with conductors to automated ticket machines, light rail and electric trains, our rail network has expanded as the city has grown.

The new Metro Tunnel will create a new end-to-end rail line from Sunbury in the west, to Cranbourne/Pakenham in the south-east, with high-capacity trains and 5 new underground stations. Due to open in 2025, it will enable more than a half a million additional passengers per week across Melbourne's train network to use the rail system during peak periods. And, of course, one of the new stations will be located right next to the State Library Victoria.

[State Library Victoria's](#) collection of 8 million items and counting is a veritable map of our state's story.



# RMIT Bachelor of Design 2022 students: Flock Off, School's Out

2022



Photography by James Henry

## About the artwork

This project celebrates the student cohort of RMIT's Bachelor of Design (Communication Design). The images are a personal response to the theme Flock Off, School's Out and returning to campus after 2 years of remote learning. The city also holds a unique place in the minds of our offshore students separated from their colleagues by circumstances beyond their control but linked through the idea of a particular place.

The cinematographer Amit Roy says, 'a smart city means a city where humans, trees, birds and other creatures can grow in all their glories, imperfections, freedom and creativity.' By that definition, Melbourne is a smart city.

The graduating students have been inspired by Melbourne's unique environment including the birds in the air and the fish in the rivers, streams, and Port

Phillip Bay. Those birds, who fill the spaces of the city with song, who steal chips, crap on heads, and generally fill the environment with a wild joie de vivre. The fish, who gather in schools, catching the light, are glinting metaphors for brilliant ideas waiting to be caught. And just like schools of fish and flocks of birds, the graduates of RMIT Communication Design are now free: school is out and the flock is off.

## About the artists

The RMIT Communication Design degree is a 3-year program of study offered in our city campus in Melbourne. Communication Design students apply design methods to contextualise design strategies. Outcomes created encompass publications, websites, apps, illustration, image-making, packaging, branding, and strategic design. *Flock Off, School's Out* was conceived and project managed by Charles Hoppe and Matthew Papaleo.

# Katy Smits: Metropolitan Tiles

2023 - 2024



Photography by Kit Edwards

## Artist statement

"I wanted to create a bold and graphic pattern based on the environment surrounding the site. I took close up photos of various architectural elements from the Melbourne City Baths, RMIT buildings and the Old Melbourne Gaol. I then drew on top of these images in colours taken from the locations and created a series of motifs and elements to use in the designs.

I took a lot of inspiration from Mediterranean tiles when creating the designs. I really enjoy the bright range of colours they use, the various layouts and possibilities created from such simple shapes. I started brainstorming with rough sketches and eventually moved into Adobe Illustrator to further develop and experiment with scale, shape and transition. I thought a tile pattern would work really well within the location, with its simple but bold repeat and would be a fun and interesting way to

combine all the motifs in a way that made sense of the location."

## About the artist

Katy graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Textile Design) from RMIT in 2020. Her works feature elements of her surroundings interpreted through a variety of bold shapes and bright colours.

## RMIT School of Fashion & Textiles, Bachelor of Arts (Textile Design)

The School of Fashion & Textiles brings together Design, Technology and Enterprise. The focus of the Bachelor of Arts (Textile Design) program is textile structures, surfaces, patterns, materiality and their relationship with bodies, spaces and experiences. Textile designers are inquisitive, sensory and driven by solution seeking within a broad range of textile industries and design practices.



# Midsumma: A Safe(R) Space

2023



Photography by Kit Edwards

The Metro Tunnel Creative Program and Midsumma Festival commissioned five artists to create works that speak to Midsumma Festival's signature program 'A Safe(R) Space' and what that means to each artist.

The five artists explore the intersectional identity between different facets of Queer communities inside the theme of "Safe Spaces" and expressing what defines a safe space for artists and communities. The work is exhibited in the Franklin Street Frames beside Melbourne City Baths. Midsumma is Australia's premier queer arts and cultural organisation, bringing together a diverse mix of LGBTQIA+ artists, performers, communities and audiences.

Participating artists: Emiko Artemis, Zoë Bastin, Kim Leutwyler, J. Rosenbaum, and Wet and Free.

## About Midsumma

**Midsumma** is a festival that intrinsically creates safe and inclusive places for communities, with diversity at its very core.

We know that when communities feel safe and supported, they are able to build stronger connections within their own groups and then with other groups they interact with.



Photography by Kit Edwards

# Carla Gottgens: Guardians

2023



Photography by Kit Edwards

## About the artwork

From memories of childhood ghost stories, spooky encounters and all things that go bump in the night, the Guardians have come to your neighbourhood. They emerge from the city scape as watchers, overlooking those who pass by, ready to intervene if needed.

Their physical attributes are a combination of all the things we do not want to find hidden under our bed. Are they friend or foe, it's hard to tell, perhaps best to just pass on by and know you are being watched and watched over.

## About the artist

A multi-disciplinary artist, [Carla Gottgens'](#) practice was established through a background in photography which still plays an important role in the concepts, designs and realisation of her art projects.

Carla's work can be found in the public domain throughout the suburbs of Melbourne and further afield nationwide in rural and metropolitan settings. The key inspirations for her art are drawn from the sites where they will eventually live. Her love of fairy tales, myths and legends will always try and find its way into a project, to delight, surprise and amuse those passing by.



# NOLA block party

2023



Photography by Theresa Harrison

RMIT, NOLA and the Metro Tunnel Creative Program was the collaboration trio we were all waiting for!

On Wednesday 8 March at RMIT A’Beckett Urban Square, we brought in the 2023 university year and hosted the ultimate block party.

The event featured a DJ zone with live performances from emerging artists and activities including table tennis and cornhole. Performers roamed the square and there was an opportunity to show off your creative flair with a NOLA-inspired interactive artwork.

Plenty of delicious free food and giveaways were

available on the day thanks to the wonderful local businesses in the NOLA precinct!

### About NOLA

**NOLA (North of La Trobe)** is a precinct identity created by the Metro Tunnel Project to support the residents and businesses impacted by construction at the new State Library Station.

Bounded by Swanston, La Trobe, Elizabeth and Victoria streets, NOLA is a place to explore and discover unique cafes, restaurants and shops and there’s something for everyone.



Photography by Theresa Harrison

# Paul Dunn: HOME

2023



Photography by James Henry

### Artist statement

‘These portraits take us on a journey into people’s homes and the spaces they love to live in. Imaginative flourishes and touches are everywhere – in the photos of families, children, friends, and lovers; in the art that is on a wall; the birthday and get well cards; allegiances to football teams; display of faiths and religious beliefs; and the devotion to pets. These things help us to shape a sense of who we are.

These are the individual stories and then there is the collective story of inclusive housing. Part of that story is the struggle to affirm what others will deny – the right to safe and affordable housing for people with disability delivered in a range of contexts including rental accommodation. Those who rent can be vulnerable, and homes can be hostile and lonely places, but when we get it right the potential

for personal and communal transformation can be profound.’

### About the project

The Home series of photographs by Paul Dunn is part of The Opening Doors – Renting for All Project, created by AMIDA (Action for More Independence and Dignity in Accommodation), and produced with the assistance of the Victorian Government.

AMIDA is an independent organisation, which advocates for good housing for people with disability. The organisation provides advocacy to individuals, with priority given to people with an intellectual disability, and advocates for change in systems which prevent people from achieving good housing.

This exhibition was curated by Lex Middleton.



# 100 Feet Under the Street

2023



Photography by Kit Edwards

## About the project

The Metro Tunnel is an unprecedented upgrade of Melbourne's train network, and Melbourne's first major metropolitan rail investment since the City Loop opened in 1981. The project includes twin nine-kilometre tunnels that run from Kensington to South Yarra, and five new underground stations – Arden, Parkville, Anzac, Town Hall and the State Library Station.

It also includes a next-generation signalling system, allowing trains to run safely closer together, and bigger, better trains will run through the new tunnel, with 20 per cent more space. An extra half a million additional passengers will be able to travel each week during peak times across the rail network.

## About the artwork

The Metro Tunnel Project is a massive feat of engineering that has been documented at every stage of its construction. These photographs reveal the hidden beauty of the construction process, rather than just the progress of works: the intricate details, challenges, and achievements of the project.

They have been taken by Misheye, Mighty Films, and Cross Yarra Partnership Design Construction.

# Artworks from The Torch

2023



Photography by James Henry

## About the work

Artworks from The Torch shares stories and designs by First Nations artists whose cultural heritage and lived experiences connect to south-eastern Australia. Beginning with the ancestral beings, Bunjil – the wedge-tailed eagle, and Waa – the crow, this series explores personal and collective cultural narratives, totem animals, and a deep connection to Country. Expressed through a unique visual vocabulary, the works are a distinct form of First Nations storytelling.

Participating artists: Dale A, Christopher Austin, Dylan B, Thelma Beeton, Melissa Bell, Alfred Carter, Flick Chafer-Smith, Billy D, S. Edwards, Renee Gray, Gumarran, Will H, Veronica Mungaloos Hudson, Jeffrey Jackson, D. Kerr, Leroy McLaughlin, Marbukk, Michael

Morgan, Morgs, Darren N, Stephen N, Narnz, Garry Scott, Heather Shawe, Ash Thomas, Trevor, and Willie.

## About the project

**The Torch** supports First Nations people in Victoria whose lives have been impacted by the criminal justice system to explore their identity and culture through art, and define new pathways for themselves upon release from prison.

By embracing participants as artists, The Torch provides an avenue for change. The program aids development of self-esteem, confidence and resilience, through cultural strengthening and artistic expression.

Instagram: [@thetorchvic](https://www.instagram.com/thetorchvic)



# Queer PHOTO in The City

2024



Photography by Kit Edwards

## About the artwork

Queer PHOTO in the City comprises a series of work by each of 3 artists:

- Like A River (2022), Daniel Jack Lyons
- Queer Immigrants (2019–2022), Asafe Ghalib
- TBWWWTB (To Be What We Want To Be) (2023), Vic Bakin.

## About the project

Developed collaboratively by [Midsumma](#) and [PHOTO 2024](#), Queer PHOTO combines artist commissions of large-scale outdoor artworks, gallery exhibitions and an interactive public performance program. The project spans 2 months from 27 January to 24 March 2024, over both Midsumma Festival and PHOTO 2024.

Queer PHOTO in the City is supported by Creative Victoria through the Victorian Government's Go West Fund and presented by Metro Tunnel Creative Program, [Midsumma](#) and PHOTO 2024, in association with Trocadero Projects.

## About the artists

### Like A River (2022), Daniel Jack Lyons

[Daniel Jack Lyons](#) is an American artist and anthropologist whose work focuses largely on marginalised youth, whether occupying spaces on the periphery of society or in the face of conflict.

### Queer Immigrants (2019–2022), Asafe Ghalib

[Asafe Ghalib](#) is from the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), based in London since 2013. As a self-taught artist, Ghalib has been exploring their own identity and relationship to the environment they inhabit, exploring photography as a way of survival and telling of stories that are being neglected.

### TBWWWTB (To Be What We Want To Be) (2023), Vic Bakin

[Vic Bakin](#) is a self-educated Ukrainian photographer. Raised near Ukrainian Carpathians, Bakin lives and works in Kyiv, Ukraine. His photographic practice mainly revolves around documenting Ukrainian youth. Vic's focus is on different local communities such as queer and fashion scenes, rave and music culture. Recently his work has shifted to the themes of war in Ukraine.