



## Public Art in Victoria

### *What is Public Art?*

Australia has a wonderful heritage of public art that can be experienced in our capital cities and regional centres.

Art commissioned for the public domain – in our streets, parks and buildings reflects Victoria’s history and enriches our lives. Public art includes statues and monuments, contemporary sculpture, memorials, murals, architectural ornament, fountains and stained glass windows.

Historical works reflect the foundation and development of our cities and towns, while contemporary works embody the artistic styles, aspirations and issues of our own time.



Public art is commissioned by civic authorities (state or local government, Docklands Authority, VicRoads), institutions (museums, galleries, universities), the private sector and sometimes individuals.

These broad guidelines are intended to assist all custodians of public art to care and preserve our shared cultural heritage.

### *The Care of Public Art*

Along with changes in fashion, ownership or with site redevelopment, works of art in the public domain are at risk of removal, alteration, damage or destruction. Such cases can result in the loss of valuable cultural material which occurs when the significance of a particular work of art is not fully understood or the moral rights of the artist are overlooked.

The following guidelines encourage custodians to preserve significant works of public art.

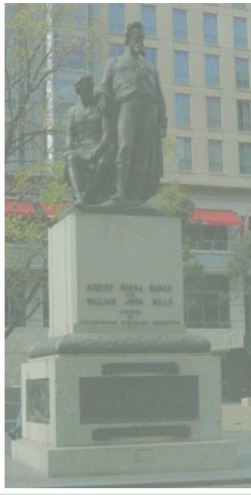
**Consult** with the artist or their Estate or check with the National Trust regarding the significance of a particular work of art and options for its conservation.

**Plan** for the maintenance of all public works of art. If a building or public space is subject to renovation or redevelopment, seek early advice regarding the protection of any works of art during the works. Early planning ensures that works of art are not lost or damaged through neglect or oversight.

**Maintain** works of art by establishing schedules for regular maintenance and ensuring that appropriately skilled personnel are engaged to care for public works of art. Inappropriate cleaning may cause more damage than no cleaning in some instances. Qualified conservators can often recommend simple, inexpensive cleaning regimes to alleviate the need for costly conservation treatments.



## ***Legislation Relating to Art in Public Places***



Works of art are protected in Australia by legal rights. These include the protection of items of cultural heritage while copyright includes moral rights.

**Moral rights** concern the integrity of a work i.e. not altering or modifying a work of art without the consent of the artist. These rights also take note of the appropriate attribution of works i.e. the artist's right to be publicly acknowledged as the creator of the work.

Works of art with special historical, cultural and social significance are classified (or subject to classification) by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria). The Trust recommends works and sites of state significance to Heritage Victoria for inclusion on the Victorian Heritage Register.

*Works listed on the Victorian Heritage Register are protected by law.*

### ***What can you do?***

Help protect and maintain Australia's cultural heritage and join the National Trust.

### ***What can the National Trust do to assist you?***

The National Trust offers guidance and assistance in the protection and care of works of art in the public domain. This support includes:

- Referral to organisations who can suggest experienced conservators
- Provision of tax deductible status by establishing fundraising appeals through the National Trust to support the repair and conservation of significant works of public art. To qualify for this support, public works of art must have a classification by the National Trust.
- General advice and advocacy may be supplied by the National Trust through its expert Public Art Committee.
- Information on public artworks classified by the Trust can be obtained through searching the online register at [www.nattrust.com.au](http://www.nattrust.com.au)



Useful contacts

### **National Trust of Australia (Victoria)**

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Website: [www.nattrust.com.au](http://www.nattrust.com.au)

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## Heritage Victoria

Level 22, Nauru House  
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Melbourne  
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Website: [www.heritage.vic.gov.au](http://www.heritage.vic.gov.au)

Email: [www.doi.vic.gov.au/heritage/](http://www.doi.vic.gov.au/heritage/)

### Images

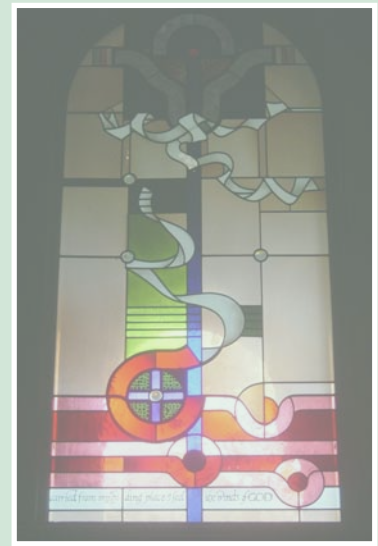
Alexandra Fountain, by William Vahland (architect) and various artists,  
Charing Cross, Bendigo.

Relief Sculpture, *Spirit Wall*, by Akio Makigawa, Sidney Myer Asia Centre, Swanston Street, University of Melbourne.

Sculpture, *Burke & Wills*, by Charles Summers, City Square, Swanston Street, Melbourne.

Detail of mosaic mural, by Mirka Mora, Flinders Street Station.

Stained glass window, *The Winds of God*, by Klaus Zimmer, St Michael's Church, Collins Street, Melbourne



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