

7PM THURSDAY 3 JUNE 2010 / RMIT BLD50 ORR STREET CARLTON



  
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## PANEL DISCUSSION : CREATING ART IN PUBLIC SPACES

ELISABETH WEISSENSTEINER / AMMON BEYERLE / KAREN CASEY / MAGGIE McCORMICK. CHAIRED BY ALEX SELENITSCH.

To remove art from the privileged domain of the gallery and make it available for general consumption can be a powerful act, and its capacity to generate controversy is clearly alive and well in Melbourne.

Public art has the capacity to **QUESTION, CHALLENGE, STIMULATE DISCUSSION, PROVOKE**...also to **INSPIRE, REFLECT COMMUNITY VALUES** and raise **AWARENESS**. It can attempt to capture collective memory and identity, invite interaction - appear fleetingly, or bear witness to the passing of years. Works of public art can be simply vehicles of individual expression, or represent the agenda of a commissioning authority. However, often such interventions can also work to bridge cultural interests, interpret and frame community values or critique social structures.

Four practitioners will explore their experiences of creating art in public spaces, drawing on examples of their own work, and reflecting on the possibilities, challenges, freedom and limitations they have encountered.

**How can art respond to social values and promote critical dialogue in a public context?**

**How can it push the boundaries of its physical and social surrounds?**

**Is there a social responsibility involved in the practice of public art?**

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED / ENTRY BY GOLD COIN DONATION

**DR MAGGIE McCORMICK** has exhibited artwork, curated exhibitions and published papers in Australia, Europe and Asia. Her researches focus on the impact of transient urbanisation on changing perceptions of cultural space and how this is mapped through contemporary art practice.

Visual artist **DR ELISABETH WEISSENSTEINER** has been nominated for Best contribution to Urban Art - Design Development Awards 2010 by the City of Port Phillip. She sees the role of art in public space as that of a catalyst within a complex system determined by social and topographical parameters, which is in continuous transformation.

Researcher, architect and teacher **AMMON BEYERLE** is actively involved in the growth of Urban Village Melbourne, a multidisciplinary social enterprise interested in arts, design community development and sustainability in public space in Melbourne.

**KAREN CASEY** is an interdisciplinary artist with a broad practice spanning both gallery and public spaces. She has worked on numerous public projects, events and commissions - promoting and encouraging cultural inclusiveness and connection through her art.

Chaired by **ALEX SELENITSCH**, a Melbourne-based poet and architect and a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Architecture Building and Planning, University of Melbourne. He practices as an architect, poet and sculptor. He was a founding member of the Public Art Committee at the City of Melbourne.

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