

Robert Jackson

BA(hons) Linguistics, Latrobe University, 1984
Post Graduate Diploma of the Arts (Music) VCA 1990
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Yarra Art Rangers Public Artworks
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Red Bluff Mural – Private residence Sandringham 2018



"Bin Chicken" Bin Wrap for Friends of Kororoit Creek rubbish awareness campaign 2018

Introduction

Robert Jackson is a visual artist, multi-skilled musician and performer. He has been active since the 1970s.

Painter Robert's main inspiration is the Australian landscape with its sense of space, forgotten and remnant areas, encroaching suburbs and industry, and is an exploration of the concepts of "Presence" and "Absence": i.e. Is the presence of a factory the absence of a natural landscape? Is a natural landscape just the absence of humans? His recent work has focused on a distillation of landscape into its distinctive elements to examine the concept of identity and place. What makes "Here", here? What makes a place distinctive?

As a professional artist he has produced many artworks for public and private clients, including councils, government agencies, festivals and businesses. He has had several solo exhibitions and has produced many murals.

Robert has held several teaching positions including at Collingwood Tafe, Prahran Tafe, John Bolton Theatre School, YMCA Avondale Heights, Yarraville Special School, Lynall Hall Community School, and has taught music privately for many years. He is currently painting tutor at St Albans Community Art Centre.

He has been Artist-in-Residence at: The Hunt Club Community Arts Centre in 2006, Keilor Art Shed in 2013, St Albans SC in 2007, 2103 and 2107, & Waterside Blacksmiths Festival 2013, 2017.

Musician Robert studied Composition at the VCA after a BA(hons) in Linguistics at Latrobe University. Playing guitar and saxophone, he has been a featured soloist at Melbourne International Arts Festival and many contemporary music events. He has played in a multitude of Rock and Jazz bands and been MD/Composer for Circus, Film & Theatre.

He is an active member of the community. In the 1980s he was a founding member/co-ordinator of The Melbourne Improvisers Association Inc., which promoted original music and was a committee member of the similar Make-it-up Club. He was President of the Albion Ardeer Community Club, a committee member of Friends of Iramoo, and has sat on several advisory boards: Including The Brimbank Arts Advisory Committee, The Eco-living Centre steering committee, the Albion Neighbourhood Plan Community Reference group, and the South Sunshine Arts Precinct Advisory Group. He is responsible for archaeological surveys being conducted along Kororoit Creek in Albion and several other sites.

Community Art Process

Many mural projects involve some form of community engagement.

- A consultation, whereby members of the public have some input into what will be depicted in the mural. This usually involves a series of meetings where people have their say, and reporting back by the artist until a satisfactory agreement is reached.
- Involvement, where the public participate in the execution of the mural. This usually involves "skilling up" of the participants through some painting and drawing workshops, or making elements of the mural design straightforward enough for people with no experience to be able to do.

Other considerations with both of these models of community engagement include:

- Identifying and connecting with the various stakeholders and general public interested in the project
- The availability of venues for meetings and workshops
- OH&S equipment and marshals if necessary
- PLI

Materials and Techniques

The standard materials used are quality exterior UV resistant acrylic paint, sealed with a graffiti-proof varnish or a clear, non-slip, paving topcoat. A selection of pure pigments is also used to mix colours. This process allows for precision of detail and shading, and is highly durable and colour-fast. Murals done with these materials have lasted in good condition and un-faded well in excess of ten years.

Other material and logistical considerations are: the need for scaffolding if working at height. Site access for getting materials in and out, and on site storage of equipment

Consideration also has to be given to the nature of the surface that the mural is to be painted upon. There is often preparation of the surface to render it suitable for painting and to ensure its durability. This could involve cleaning, and sealing or undercoating depending on the surface, and forms part of the overall budget.

The time-frame of painting a mural is difficult to estimate and usually dependent on how much preparation of the surface, the complexity of the design layout and how much detailed painting is involved. As a general benchmark, 2 – 4 hours per square metre is a good estimate.

Why a Mural?

The benefits of a public mural project are manifold:

- A mural can beautify an unattractive area
- A mural can activate unused space and contribute to a sense of public safety
- It can contribute to a sense of ownership and belonging to an area
- It promote a philosophy or message
- For community art participants, it can give a sense of achievement and involvement.

Painting – Recent Commissions, Murals & Exhibitions

2018	“Red Bluff” Mural for private house, Sandringham
2018	STRGC-9, a painting, acquired by Brimbank City Council's Public Collection
2017	Sky – Trees – Rocks - -Grass – Creek. Solo Exhibition Sunshine Art Spaces Gallery
2017	4 - panel mural for St Albans Secondary College library
2017	Public Artworks for Melton Railway Station Underpass for Linking Melton South
2016	Good Luck Alley: Murals and digital artwork Sunshine CBD For Sunshine Business Association – Highly commended at 2016 Mainstreet Australia Awards
2016	Sunshine Orchids Mural Sun Crescent Sunshine
2015	Pavement Creek Mural for Linking Melton South
2014	Regional Rail Link Murals. Anderson Rd Grade Separation Underpass, Sunshine
2014	Maribyrnong Fantasy, Solo Exhibition. Sunshine Art Spaces Gallery
2013	Exhibition Western Treatment Plant Open Day Werribee
2013	Exhibition Election Day St Marks Spotswood
2013	Mural for St Albans Secondary College Science Building
2013	“Beauties of the Basalt” Exhibition at Hunt Club Community Art Centre
2013	Mural for Waterside Metal-Art Workers, Footscray, created in conjunction with WMAW festival March 2013 – Re-done 2017
2012	2 Paintings for OPEC Technical Services PL, Williamstown Nth Depicting old oil tanks and Lower Kororoit Creek.
2012 July	Exhibition “Up the Kororoit” at Sunshine Art Spaces Gallery
2012 May	Exhibition “Up the Kororoit” at Hunt Club Community Art Centre
2011-12	YMCA, Avondale Heights, Mural of native animals for art room
2010	Winner inaugural Westpac Sunshine Art Prize
2009	Keilor Views Primary School, Mural of Grasslands and Native Animals
2008	Sustainability Mural for Discovery Centre iramoov@vu , St Albans
2007	Solo Exhibition “Hunt Club Arts Centre” Brimbank
2007	Exhibition “Albion Artists at The Granary”, The Granary Café, Sunshine
2007	Large scale Grassland Mural “Numala” at St Albans Secondary College, 3 panels 5m x 4m, 1 panel 3m x 4m
2005	Solo Exhibition “Dancing Dog Gallery” Footscray
2004	Rainforest Mural, Private house, Innisfail QLD
2004	Theatre set production and design, VU-CIP, Brimbank

Many private sales of paintings - His work is represented in private collections in London, Milan, Cleveland, Stockholm and across Australia.

Examples of Work



STRGC-9, Acquired by Brimbank Council 2018
Oil on Canvas 60 x 90 cm

Good Luck Alley – Sunshine CBD – “Highly Commended” Main St Australia Award 2016





Good Luck Alley – Sunshine CBD – “Highly Commended” Main St Australia Award 2016



St Albans SC Science Mural



St Albans SC Science Mural

Regional Rail Link Mural Anderson Rd







Linking Melton South Pavement Community Art Project