

Canal to Creek

WestConnex

Transurban

THE WESTCONNEX PUBLIC ART PROGRAM



VADEA
NSW

VISUAL ARTS & DESIGN
EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

ANDREW ROGERS

TO BE - IKIGAI | STAGE 4 WORKSHEET



Andrew Rogers
To Be - Ikigai

CRITICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION

VOCABULARY - Site-specific, commission, public art, diptych, figurative, installation, form, sculptural, stature, presence, ikigai

For example, *“To-Be - Ikigai is site specific, meaning the work was designed specifically for the space it has been placed in”.*

This artwork is one of 18 **site-specific** works commissioned by WestConnex as part of its [Public Art Program](#) – Canal to Creek.

To Be - Ikigai is composed of two spectacular, streamlined, organic **figurative** forms fabricated from sheets of reflective stainless steel, a non-corrosive and durable material ideal for a public art **installation**.

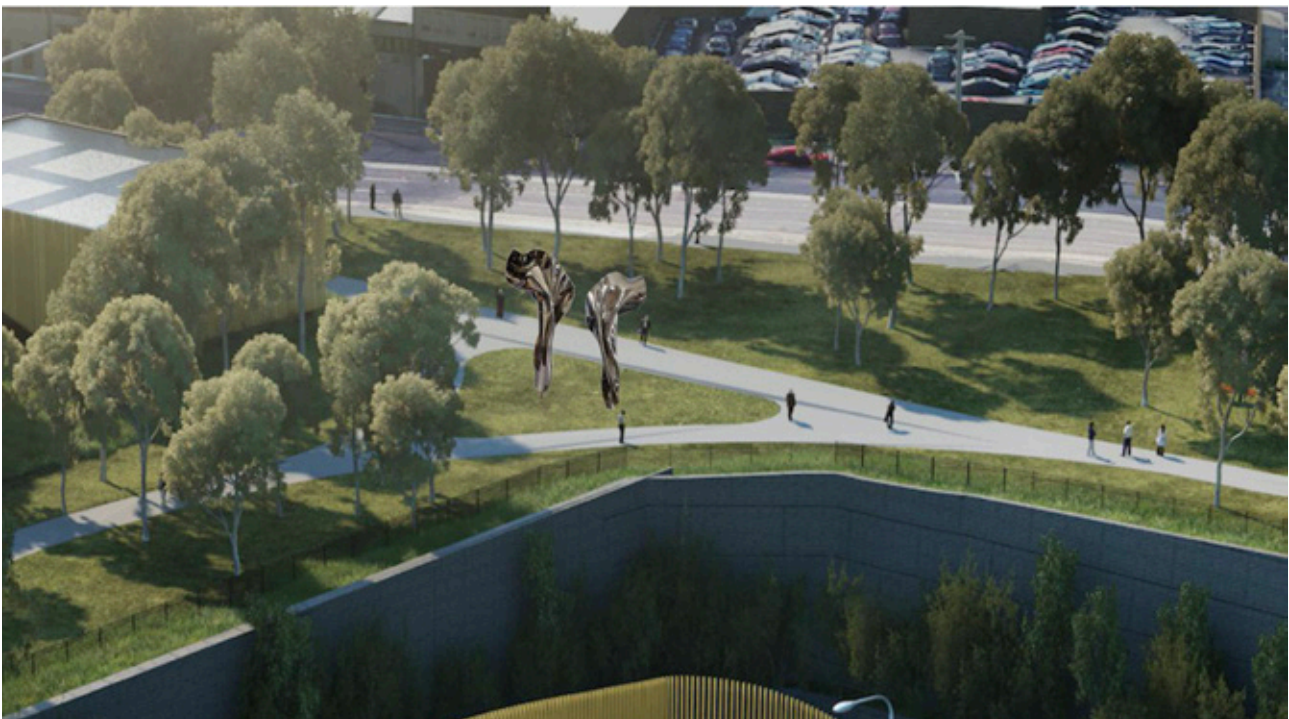
Each **form** measures approximately 500h x 217w x 129d cm and weighs approximately 1.9 tonnes. The **sculptural forms** are **characterised** by their smooth, reflective, undulating surfaces with a billowing upper section and a narrow lower section.

The installation has been designed to be viewed at close proximity by pedestrians (audiences) enjoying the parklands, however, the **stature** and **presence** of the forms also allows them to also be seen from afar.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

In 2-3 sentences, respond to the following questions:

1. **ARTIST:** What themes does the artist Andrew Rogers address in his work?
2. **AUDIENCE:** How does the use of highly reflective stainless steel encourage audiences to interact with the work?
3. **ARTWORK:** What do the forms or shapes of the two sculptures remind you of? What do you think this artwork might be about?



CONCEPTUAL PRACTICE (IDEAS, ARTIST INTENTIONS)

For artist Andrew Rogers, the purpose of his artwork is for audiences to **interact** with the work on both a physical and emotional level. He wants the beauty of the organic forms to invite **contemplation, interaction and exploration** from the audience. The mirrored surface reflects the surrounding terrain and the audience themselves. By using reflective steel, **the audience becomes part of the conversation**. Therefore, the artwork is about us as individuals and how we interact with each other and our environment.

“I believe we are caretakers of our earth and have responsibilities to those around us and to those who will follow as our interactions with the environment leave a consequence for our descendants. This philosophy relates to both the land art and the sculpture for the built environment”

- Andrew Rogers



What makes you feel fulfilled or excited in life? What do you value? What makes you want to jump out of bed with energy or excitement in the morning?

Ikigai is a Japanese concept that means a reason for living, having a purpose in life, and having reasons to make our life worthwhile. **Ikigai is the central concept** behind Andrew Roger's work. His site-specific installation **To Be - Ikigai** is about the interconnection of humanity, communication and connection. The artist recognises the benefit that public art can bring to a community and will contribute to the environment in which it is located.

Make a list of 10 words that describe what this work is about.

For example, *the work is about communication...*

Explain how the work's shape or form, size, location, materials, etc. might contribute to the meaning of the work.

For example, the two sculptures look like two figures communicating with each other.

In your own words, and in your Visual Arts diary, explain what To be - Ikigai is about.



EXTENSION ACTIVITY

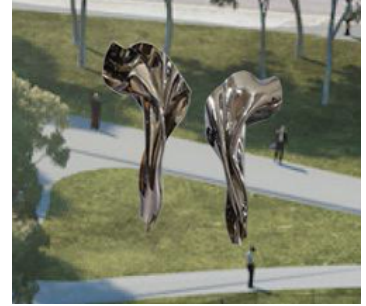
Discussion: What is public art? What do you think some of the roles of public art are? Reading the artist quote above, what do you think Andrew Rogers sees as the role of his public artworks?

ARTMAKING TASK

1. Imagine you are an artist being commissioned to produce a **large-scale public artwork** for the **local community** based on a particular **word, idea, concept or theme**. Select one of the following concepts as a theme for your sculpture, or select your own theme.

Concepts: Beauty, peace, dream, hope, communication, memory, pleasure, life, energy, light, organic, joy, expanse

2. In your Visual Arts diary, create a series of **sketches** (at least 3) illustrating ideas for your public artwork based on a concept. You might want to start by drawing a simple symbol that illustrates your concept. Consider what **form or shape** your artwork will take, the materials the artwork will be made of, the size of the work, and how you want audiences to interact with the work.
3. Choose one of the sketches and carefully **re-draw** on a page in your Visual Arts diary. Focus on detail, shading, and form.



EXTENSION ACTIVITY

4. Photograph or find images online of the site you would like to place your artwork. Using simple paper collage or a digital tool like Photoshop, cut out your final drawing and place it within the area you have chosen to illustrate how it could be viewed when installed within the space.