

# Canal to Creek

WestConnex

Transurban

THE WESTCONNEX PUBLIC ART PROGRAM



VADEA  
NSW

VISUAL ARTS & DESIGN  
EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

# TOM MISURA

KANGAROO SEATS | STAGE 4 WORKSHEET



Tom Misura  
*Kangaroo Seats*

## CRITICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION

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**VOCABULARY** - Installation, public art, interactive, sculptural, fauna, stylised, kitsch

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Look carefully at the objects depicted in *Kangaroo Seats* for at least one minute. Record your observations, listing nouns, adjectives, verbs that describe the subject matter in the mural.

<b>Nouns</b> (people, places, things)	<b>Adjectives</b> (describe colour, size, shape, feelings, etc.)	<b>Verbs</b> (actions; activities)

*‘Our concept is to explore and reinterpret the native flora and fauna of the area and some iconic species familiar to the local residents, then represent these in our street furniture designs. The kangaroo seats are intended to be playful interactive kinetic sculptures that highlight the loss of native fauna in the area’.*

- from the artists initial proposal

## Kangaroo Seats

Research each term in the list below and paraphrase your own definition in the space provided

<b>Installation</b>	
<b>Public art</b>	
<b>Interactive</b>	
<b>Sculptural</b>	
<b>Fauna</b>	
<b>Stylised</b>	
<b>Kitsch</b>	

Using your new terms and the information provided, explain the ideas and choices behind *Kangaroo Seats*.

## CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK - ARTIST

Tom Misura is a trained blacksmith who has had multiple entries into Australia's largest annual outdoor sculpture exhibition, Sculpture by the Sea. In 2010, Misura won the kids choice prize for the sculpture of a giant stainless-steel paint tube squirting red paint towards the beach titled *Splash*. He works at the intersection of art, design and sculpture. Misura has a preference for hand-made design and fabricated objects without resorting to computer design processes.

For the Canal to Creek proposal, Misura completed research into the local area of Beverly hills (where *Kangaroo Seats* is situated) and found that there were many local residents who were immigrants to Australia. This fact resonated with Misura and his own experience of being an immigrant which led him to shape his sculpture into the iconic and internationally recognisable Kangaroo shape.

**What type of artist is Tom Misura?**

## CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK - ARTWORK

As part of the WestConnex Public Art Program - Canal to Creek, *Kangaroo Seats* was chosen from a range of submitted artwork proposals by a selection committee.

*Kangaroo Seats* is an outdoor installation of three sculptural kangaroo inspired seats that are made from stainless steel for its durability. All three kangaroos have a reflective finish and have been painted in parts with a coloured epoxy paint. Each kangaroo is painted with a different primary colour red, blue or yellow.

**How has the display of *Kangaroo Seats* added to the site's value?**



Tomas Misura  
*Splash*  
Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi Beach Sydney (temporary outdoor exhibition)  
2010  
(Photo: Roger D'Souza <https://sculpturebythesea.com/the-clitheroe-foundation-emerging-artists-mentor-program/>)  
Date accessed: 5/1/2021



Tomas Misura  
*Kangaroo Seats*  
Canal to Creek  
2020

Look at the two examples of Tomas Misura's '*Splash*' 2010 from Sculpture by the Sea and '*Kangaroo Seats*' 2020 at Tallawatta Street Reserve. What are three similarities between the works?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

## CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK - AUDIENCE



Who do you think would be the audience / participants of *Kangaroo Seats*?

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How does *Kangaroo Seats* attract audience attention?

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## ARTMAKING TASK



Images 1 & 2 - Close up & detail of **Kangaroo Seats**

Image 3 - Photo of native kangaroo from <https://www.pexels.com/photo/shallow-focus-photo-of-kangaroo-2122423/> sourced 27/12/2020

Notice how Tom Misura has simplified and stylised the shape of the kangaroo.

Research other iconic Australian flora and fauna. Print out some images you are interested in developing into artworks.

In your Visual Arts diary, paste these images in and then draw simple line drawings that capture their key features only.

Use a variety of tones of one colour and shade your line drawings with tonal variations that give it a sense of 3-dimensional form and solidity. Here are some examples of tones for red.

