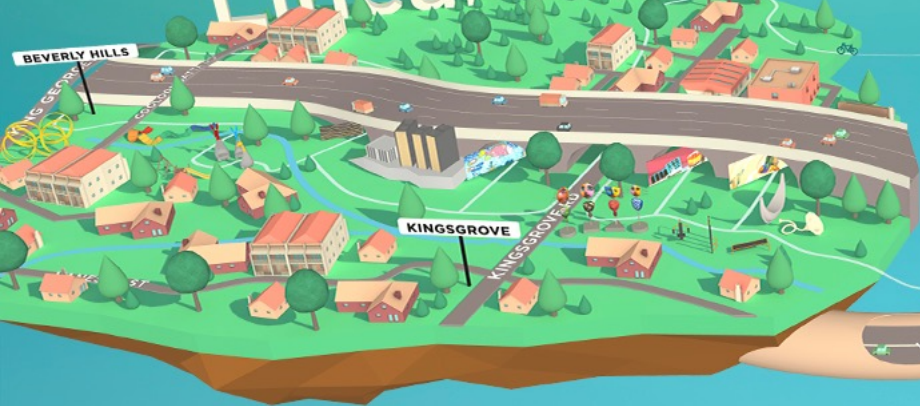


Canal to Creek

WestConnex | Transurban

THE WESTCONNEX PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

Linear Park



St Peters



Canal to Creek

WestConnex | Transurban

VADEA
NSW

VISUAL ARTS & DESIGN
EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

Aboriginal Sydney: ADAM KING



Aboriginal Sydney: ADAM KING

ABORIGINAL SYDNEY: ADAM KING

How do we remember important people from throughout history?

In what ways does your family remember its history?

Conceptual Framework - Artwork

ABORIGINAL SYDNEY: ADAM KING

"I was trying to make a statement that we are still here" - Adam King

Aboriginal Sydney is one of eighteen public artworks that feature in the WestConnex Public Art Program - Canal to Creek in Sydney. The artwork is made up of three steel sculptures featuring 135 silhouettes of past and present Aboriginal peoples. Unlike other public monuments to figures from history, the faces depicted in Aboriginal Sydney are not those of well-known people. The artist describes them as "just normal people ... they're cleaners, they're grandparents, they're elders, they're babies ... they're not celebrities".

The artwork can be seen as a celebration of the enduring culture, history and lives of Aboriginal peoples in the Sydney region.

What is a public artwork?

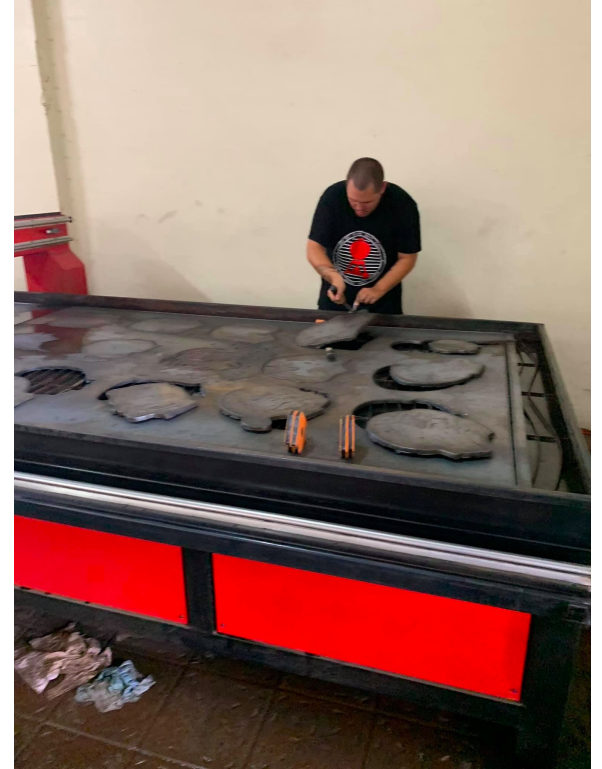
How is it different to an artwork in a museum or a gallery?



Conceptual Framework - Artist

ABORIGINAL SYDNEY: ADAM KING

Adam King is a Darug man who lives and works outside of Dubbo, NSW. Drawing on his career in the construction industry, his practice as a sculptor sees him use both traditional metal working techniques as well as new technologies, like CAD software and CNC machinery.



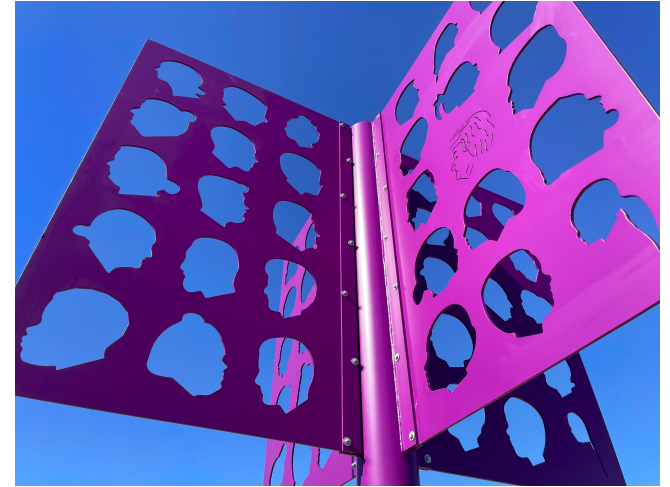
Conceptual Framework - World

ABORIGINAL SYDNEY: ADAM KING

The artworks commissioned for the 'Canal to Creek' Public Art Program reflect the ways we relate to different places and natural environments.

Aboriginal Sydney explores the stories of past and present generations of Aboriginal peoples who have lived in the Sydney region. Their portraits reflect the histories of both local Aboriginal peoples and those whose families have relocated to Sydney since the 1800s for opportunity or as a result of dispossession.

Situated amid the only remaining bushland of its size in Sydney's inner south-west, Aboriginal Sydney shows Aboriginal peoples' enduring connection to country in the Sydney District – a connection that has been maintained throughout its rapid transformation from bushland to metropolis.



Aboriginal Sydney: ADAM KING

ABORIGINAL SYDNEY: ADAM KING

Imagine you're creating an artwork like Adam King's. Whose portraits would you include? Why?

Why do you think it's important that the artist has chosen to include portraits of both past and present Aboriginal peoples from this area?

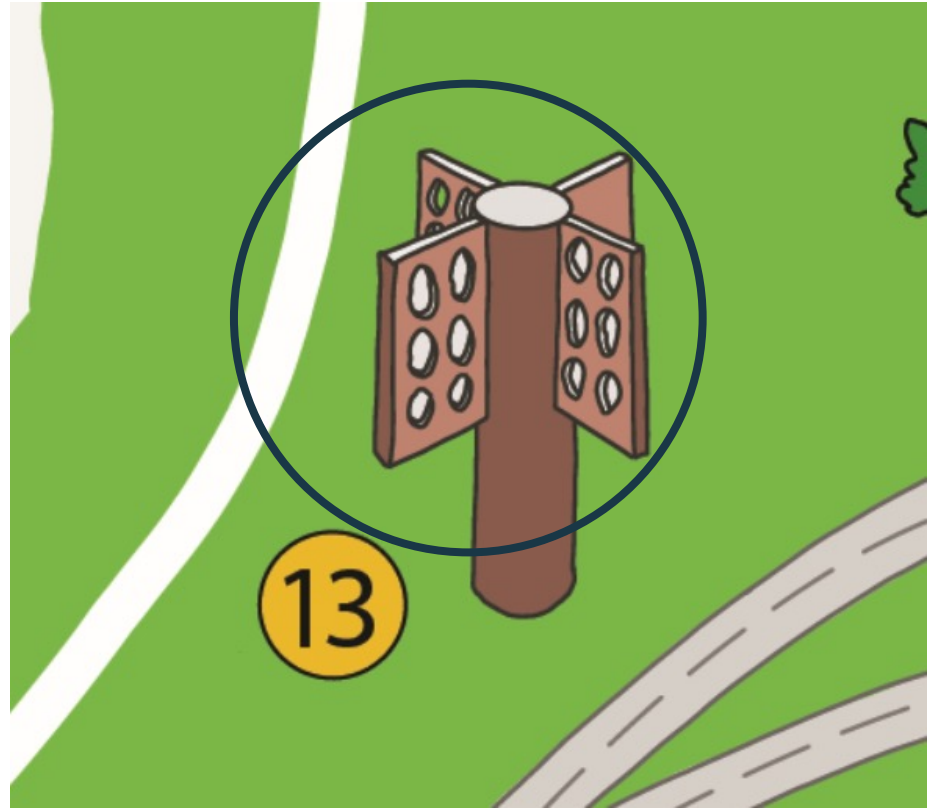
Where is the artwork?

ABORIGINAL SYDNEY: ADAM KING

The artwork is situated at **St Peters Interchange**.

This artwork is site specific. Why do you think this particular site was chosen?

How would the meaning change if it was located somewhere else?



Conceptual Framework - Audience

ABORIGINAL SYDNEY: ADAM KING

The audience for this artwork is widened by its position in an outdoor, public space. It can be expected that the artwork will be viewed both intentionally and unintentionally.

The artist has stated his intention for the artwork to educate the audience about the history of the site. Active engagement with the artwork is encouraged through the inclusion of QR codes, providing additional information about the site and opportunities for audiences to share their experiences of it.

Like many public artworks, Aboriginal Sydney is situated on an ordinary site that people pass through everyday. In what ways does the artwork transform this everyday place into a site of significance?



Aboriginal Sydney: ADAM KING

ABORIGINAL SYDNEY: ADAM KING

Spend time exploring Aboriginal Sydney virtually via the WestConnex Public Art Portal.

What is your response to the artwork?

How would you interact with it if you physically visited the site? Why?

What factors could make your experience of the artwork different to someone else's?

What are some of the benefits of being able to view it online?