

Adelaide CBD Public Art – Sculptures – 1960-2024

Analysis by Lisa Conolly. *This is a work in progress, and will be updated as I learn more.*

In mid 2025 I started to review public information about sculptures standing in public spaces in the Adelaide CBD from the period 1960 – 2024. I am interested in how the sculptures came to be on a public street in Adelaide, and their public value then and now. Who owns the work? How is it maintained? Why might the work be significant? Was the work commissioned as a site-specific art work? Was it selected by an architect or building owner? I have begun to collate relevant information to address these questions, but it's a work in progress. My judgements about origins of the work may not be correct in some cases, and there are some unknowns here. I'd welcome feedback.

I excluded specific memorials and monuments and integrated art (e.g. street furniture, gates, paving, fences) from my analysis. However, sculptural pieces that have been mounted on a wall have been included, such as *Progress* by Lynden Dadswell. I included fountains where there is clearly a sculptural element (e.g. the *Three Rivers Fountain* by John Dowie). While all the sculptures are in places that are accessible to the public, some are now privately owned, and may nominally be on private land (adjacent to a footpath). Some are in need of maintenance. I analysed only the sculptures that remain in the Adelaide CBD in 2026. Occasionally sculptures are removed – most famously City Sign (1973), by Otto Hajek was removed in 2015 to make way for Festival Centre Plaza redevelopment.

1960 - 1999

There are at least **42 public art sculptures** still standing, that were placed in the Adelaide CBD between 1960 and 1999, and most were purchased with public funds. **Eight were by women sculptors**, with the earliest being *Immortal Warrior*, by Norma Redpath (1963), *Ultimate Form* by Barbara Hepworth (1971) and *Untitled* by Margel Hinder (1972). One other sculpture in this period, *Yerrakartarta* (1995) involved a collaboration which included a woman artist.

Of the 42 sculptures, it is my judgement so far that **12 (29%) of these sculptures were site specific** – that is; they were commissioned for a particular site and designed for that site. The remaining sculptures are art works in keeping with the artists oeuvre, and the purchase and placement may have been considered later. For example, *The Spheres* by Burt Flugelman has come to be known for the place – Mall's balls in Rundle Mall - but the art work was in keeping with Flugelman's aesthetic and it is not clear that it was designed for the site. However, Flugelman thought that his style of work with shiny surfaces probably suited a busy crowded space.¹

2000 – 2024

Since 2000, there have been at least **35 public art sculptures** added to the Adelaide CBD which are still standing today. Of these, I have judged that **14 sculptures (40%) were clearly site specific**, which is an increase over the previous decades. This may be an underestimate as there was not always enough information for me to make a clear judgement about site specificity, so if in doubt I did not categorise them as site specific. **Women were involved as the sole artist in only 5 of these sculptures, with another 4 sculptures involving women in collaboration with men.** There has been little change in the representation of women sculptors compared to the previous decades.

¹ Peter Pinson, *Flugelman, on Further Reflection* (The Watermark Press, 2008). (p42)

Table 1 – Sculptures remaining in Adelaide CBD, 1960 - 1999

Year	Sculpture Name	Sculptor	Type?	Ownership?
1960	Piccaninny	John Dowie	?	Adelaide City Council
1962	The Couple	Berend Vand Der Struik	?	ACC
1962	Pan	John Dowie	Site-Specific	ACC
1962	Alice	John Dowie	Site-Specific	ACC
1963	Progress	Lyndon Dadswell		Rundle Mall Plaza ⁱ
1963	Immortal Warrior	Norma Redpath		Private
1964	Dorado	Bryan Kneale		
1968	Three Rivers Fountain	John Dowie	Site-Specific	ACC
1968	Cascade	Sergio Redegalli	Site-Specific	
1969	Reclining Connected Forms	Henry Moore		Adelaide University
1971	Ultimate Form	Barbara Hepworth		Festival Centre
1972	Untitled	Margel Hinder		Private
1973	Knot	Bert Flugelman		ACC
1973	Continuum	Bert Flugelman		Festival Centre
1974	Tetrahedrons	Bert Flugelman		Festival Centre
1975	Untitled	Donald Judd	Site-specific	Art Gallery SA
1976	Sculpture No. 2	Bert Flugelman		Festival Centre
1977	The Spheres (Malls Balls)	Bert Flugelman		ACC ⁱⁱ
1977	The Slide	John Dowie		ACC (gifted 1977) ⁱⁱⁱ
1977	Untitled	Owen Broughton		ACC
1978	Dual	Greg Johns		Adelaide University
1979	Hindmarsh Square Sculpture	Paul Trappe		
1982	The Eternal Question	Richard Tipping		
1986	Untitled	Ulrich Ruckiem		
1989	Standing Figures	Clifford Last		AGSA
1990	Elements and Being	Akio Makigawa		Private
1990	Shrine II	Greg Johns		
1990	Growing Up	Hossain Valamanesh		
1990	Bronze Sculpture No. 714	Robert Klippel		Private
1992	Black Spring	Andy Goldsworthy	Site specific	Adelaide Botanic Gdns
1993/4	Eyrie	Bronwyn Oliver	Site specific	Hyatt Hotel
1994	Journey	Chendra Andary		
1994	River Markers	John Wood	Site-Specific	
1994	No Regrets	Maria Kczynska		
1994	Landline / Timeline	Phillip Hind	Site-Specific	
1994	Coordinate #1 You are here	Steven Giles	Site-Specific	
1994	Rhythm of Construction 1-3 - Construction Thought Optimism	Victor Meetens		Private ?
1995	Yerrakartarta	Darryl Pfitzner Milikia, Muriel Van Der Byl, Stephen Bowers, Jo Crawford and Jo Fraser		Private ?
1996	Consumption	Philip Hind		
1997	The Apron	Karen Genoff	Site-Specific	
1998	Fugue	Greg Johns		
1999	Songs of Australia 3 - At Home	Aleks Danko		
1999	A Day Out (The pigs)	Marguerite Derricourt	Site-Specific	ACC

Table 2 – Sculptures remaining in CBD – 2000 - 2024

Year	Sculpture Name	Sculptor	Type
2000	Carpark Members Only toy car installation	Matej Andraz Vogrincic	
2001	Fractal Mandala	Greg Johns	
2002	Kaurna meyunna, Kuarna yerta tampendi	Eileen Kapany, Tony Rosella and Darren Siwes	
2002	Drift	George Popperwell	
2002	Retrace	Trevor Rodwell and Sue Rodwell	Site-Specific
2003	The Forest of Dreams	Anton Hart	Site-Specific
2004	Lie of the land	Aleks Danko and Jude Walton	Site-Specific
2005	Talking our way home	Shaun Kirby - Thylacine Art Projects	
2006	Moved On	Rick Clise	
2007	Different Forms of Intelligence	Fiona Hall	
2008	Fallen Shadows	Geoff Cobham and Deb Jones	
2008	Custart	Greg Healey, Gregg Mitchell and Geoff Cobham	
2008	Standing Work No. 3	Johnnie Dady	Site-Specific
2011	Chimpanzee Finger	Lisa Roet	Site-Specific
2012	Eucalyptus Alive	Marijana Tadic	Site-Specific
2012	Play, Relax, Observe	Nicholas Uhlmann	
2013	Onion Rings	Greg Healy and Gregg Mitchell - Groundplay	Site-Specific
2013	Flock Shelter	James Martin and Steve Hooper	
2013	Camouflage	Karl Meyer with Exhibition Studios	Site-Specific
2013	Fork	Karl Meyer with Exhibition Studios	Site-Specific
2013	Paper Bag	Michelle Nikou	
2014	The Boys watch the Girls watch the Boys	Greg Healy and Gregg Mitchell	Site-Specific
2017	Golden Rhombohedron (Acute)	Jason Sims	
2017	Sensing With Light	John Tonkin	
2018	Love Knot	Mulloway Studios	Site-Specific
2018	Song of The Wind	Zhang Baito	Site-Specific
2019	Ngadlu Padninthi Kumangka - We Walk Together	Allan Summer	
2020	Wangu Poles	Paul Herzich	
2020	Kardi Munta (Emu Net & Kardi (Emu)	Paul Herzich	
2020	Pigeon	Paul Sloan	Site Specific
2021	The Life of Stars	Lindy Lee	
2022	Endless Hoist	Oakey, Steven Bellosguardo, Frances Rogers	
2022	One: All That We Can See	Sundrai Carmody	Site-Specific
2023	aeolidida	Michael Kutschbach	
2024	Walking the Language of Landscape	Amber Cronin	
2024	Time Space	Peter Walker	
2024	Snowflake	Sam Songalio	

References and sources

Main sources

Adelaide Festival Centre Art Collections –

<https://www.adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/collections/works-of-art>

Art in Adelaide, Experience Adelaide (City of Adelaide)

<https://www.experienceadelaide.com.au/visit/things-to-do/arts-culture-music/art-in-adelaide/>

Parklands Trail information

<https://www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/park-21-tour/#twelve>

SA History Hub - <https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/things/>

Artlab Projects (includes some sculpture maintenance) - <https://www.artlabaustralia.au/projects>

ENDNOTES

ⁱ <https://www.artlabaustralia.au/projects/progress-sculpture> (Viewed 26/8/2026)

ⁱⁱ <https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/things/knot/> (Viewed 26/8/2026)

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.artlabaustralia.au/projects/the-slide-sculpture> (viewed 26/8/2026)