

Eight artists announced for 2014 Melbourne Art Trams include a leading Australian landscape painter, a high school student and the daughter of Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri

Eight new Victorian artists, including a Year 12 student at Wesley College, have been selected to transform Melbourne trams into dynamic public artworks as part of Melbourne Festival's 2014 visual arts program.

Announcing the winning Melbourne Art Tram proposals for the second year of the program, Minister for the Arts Heidi Victoria said the concept was one that resonated with Victorians.

"Last year's first round of Melbourne Art Trams had a great response from the public, they added a colourful new dimension to our cityscape and became a fitting emblem for Melbourne as Australia's arts heartland.

"The 2014 artists are, once again, a diverse and eclectic representation of Victoria's arts scene – ranging from street art to landscapes, and of course, our impressive student artist."

The winning works were selected from more than 150 proposals from artists across the State. They were chosen by a panel comprising Hon Heidi Victoria MP, Minister for the Arts; Clement Michel, CEO, Yarra Trams; Josephine Ridge, Creative Director, Melbourne Festival; and artist Michael Leunig whose work was featured on a tram in 1986 as part of the original *Transporting Art* program.

The 2014 artists are:

Jeff Makin – with a career spanning over 50 years and widely recognised as one of Australia's leading landscape painters, Makin was one of the first artists to design a tram in 1990 as part of *Transporting Art* and returns in 2014 with a new design reflecting the Victorian landscape in its sublime.

Gabriella Possum Nungurrayi – eldest daughter of acclaimed artist Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri, now internationally renowned in her own right – Gabriella takes her tram design from her painting 'Grandmother's Country' depicting an important meeting place.

Kristin Headlam – represented by Melbourne's Charles Nodrum Gallery and a Doug Moran National Portrait Prize winner – Kristin has taken Melbourne's once renown for being 'A Garden State' as her inspiration to turn a tram into a moving green.

James Cattell – a puppeteer and street performer before starting his own art business, James has produced murals, sculptures as well three story picture books – his tram design aims to capture the iconic nature of the city's architectural landscape.

Christian Thompson – the inaugural Charlie Perkins scholar now internationally acclaimed artist everywhere from Berlin to Singapore – Christian's tram raises the question of sexuality and gender with his work titled *Ellipse* – an alter ego like figure created in a series of new works.

Janine Daddo – an affiliate of Manyung Gallery Group enjoying sell-out exhibitions in Sydney and Melbourne and as far a field as London and New York, Janine celebrates the little moments of everyday life to create "a moving smile" with her tram.

Rone – a key artist on the Melbourne street art scene, most famous for his sumptuous paintings of glamorous women, Rone will pay homage to Melbourne's laneways creating his tram artwork (to scale) on a city wall before it's transferred digitally.

Callum Croker – an 18 year old student in Year 12 at Wesley College, has taken out the coveted emerging artist tram with his striking artwork inspired by children's wooden toy train sets, Melbourne's laneways and the simple joy of taking a tram.

PRESS CONTACT: TATIA SLOLEY P +61 3 9652 8641 M 0403 305 395 tatia@tspublicity.com.au
EMMA COSTELLO P +61 3 9652 8638 M 0421 201 344 emma@tspublicity.com.au

Callum's tram will feature on a Z Class tram on routes 3, 64, 67 and 78 that travels past his school.

Arts Victoria, Melbourne Festival and Yarra Trams are the creative partners behind this successful public art project that transforms Melbourne's iconic trams into moving works of art travelling across the city.

Josephine Ridge, Creative Director of Melbourne Festival said: "The large number of submissions we received this year shows how much interest there is in the compelling idea of bringing art onto the streets in celebration of the Melbourne tram.

"Like last year, the quality and diversity of ideas has been outstanding and I congratulate the eight artists who have been selected."

Clement Michel, Yarra Trams Chief Executive Officer said: "Trams are Melbourne icons and Yarra Trams is very proud to be part of our thriving arts community.

"The calibre of the artwork is sensational and we look forward to these mobile pieces of art being part of our tram network."

Melbourne Art Trams is a revival of the Victorian Government's popular Transporting Art project that ran between 1978 and 1993, and saw 36 of Melbourne's W-class trams completely repainted by some of Australia's most renowned artists, including Mirka Mora, Howard Arkley and Michael Leunig.

The 2014 Melbourne Art Trams will feature in the visual arts program of this year's Melbourne Festival, which runs from 10 to 26 October. They will remain on the tracks until April 2015.

A People's Choice award will be announced following the release of all eight trams onto the network. The public will be able to vote for their favourite at: melbournefestival.com.au/trams in October.

PRESS CONTACT: **TATIA SLOLEY** P +61 3 9652 8641 M 0403 305 395 tatia@tspublicity.com.au
EMMA COSTELLO P +61 3 9652 8638 M 0421 201 344 emma@tspublicity.com.au