

About the Project

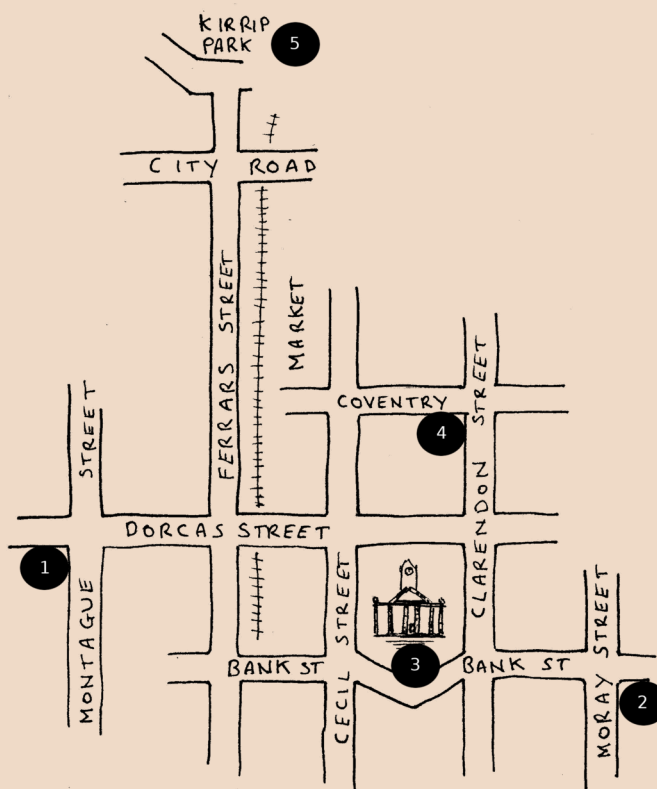
Early in 2020 I thought of creating an art project that would help strengthen community bonds, after what was clearly going to be a difficult period. However I did not realise then the extent of what would transpire in the name of Covid-19. In looking for images of South Melbourne, Maurice Carter's folio 'Our Street', stood out, both for its visual strength and honesty. Carter spent his relatively short life promoting community, peace, and freedom through his art. As events unfold, Carter's art seems more and more relevant.

Maurie Carter was a South Melbourne boy, who took to art after he became largely bed ridden (see biography). Carter was a social realist, using art to draw attention to the 'ordinary' world he inhabited. The images by Carter will be recreated in such a way as to create a visual dialogue between the image and the surrounding environment. This is to help us think about our community, and how it is changing. By recreating images on the pavement there are no financial or physical obstacles for the audience

'The only constant is change.' This project is deliberately ephemeral to emphasise this. The chalk images will simply weather away over time. Once the images have gone, the project will be taken forward by the audience through their memories. To draw further attention to the transitory nature of life, rather than creating the images in a studio and installing them, they will be made in public. The whole process is exposed to both the community and the environment. Over the four or five days of image making, myriad serendipitous encounters are made possible that will help promote fellowship in community. Serendipity, the chance happenings and encounters that ultimately enhance our lives, is a big part of this project.

Given that this project is designed to strengthen community bonds, encouraging people to think about the evolving community of South Melbourne, and their response to this process, it is only fitting to acknowledge our host community. I respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land. I pay my respect to their Elders, both past, present and emerging. I acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.

Map and Dates



- 1) S.W. corner of Montague and Dorcas
Dates 02/10/2022 - 15/10/2022
- 2) S.E. corner of Moray and Bank
Dates 06/11/2022 - 19/11/2022
- 3) South Melbourne Town Hall
Dates 04/12/2022- 17/12/2022
- 4) S.W. corner of Coventry and Clarendon
Dates 02/01/2023 - 15/01/2023
- 5) Kirrip Park
Dates 05/02/2023 - 18/02/2023

NB - Each image will take approximately 5 days to make within the windows of time given above.

Streets of South Melbourne

a pavement art project by DMS



Inspired by the 1949 folio "Our Street", by South Melbourne artist, Maurice Carter, this project is a re-imagining of artistic social commentary.

Carter's images will be recreated in chalk on the streets of South Melbourne, so that they may connect with the community, and in the spirit of Carter, promote fellowship, peace and freedom.

Dates and locations on back cover



**AUSPICIOUS
ARTS
PROJECTS**

Supported by the City
of Port Phillip Cultural
Development Fund

Biography of Maurice 'Maurie' Carter

Maurice Carter was a working class boy from South Melbourne. He was working as a motor mechanic when, as a young man, he developed an arthritic condition which confined him to a lifetime of bed and wheel chairs. He was never free from pain and at best able to walk only very short distances with the aid of sticks.

Carter lived a rich life. He cultivated Bonsai trees, he wrote poetry, loved literature and music, and of course he created art. Carter married his nurse, Marjorie, at about the time the folio 'Our Street' was made, and together they had a son, Geoffrey. At some point the family moved to Boronia and then to Ferny Creek, where Carter died of a heart attack on March 6th, 1968, aged fifty.

Carter was a self-taught artist. His disabilities were such that his earliest paintings were made with the fingers of one hand and a brush held in his mouth. Later Carter worked out how to use his left hand to hold a brush. His paintings were vivid and very personal in style. His chosen subjects were the poor and marginalised, for whom his art shows great empathy. In 1953 Carter had a solo exhibition at the Victorian Artists Society, and exhibited regularly with the Melbourne Realist Group. Carter is poorly represented in public collections, with works restricted to the 1949 folio 'Our Street', and the single image 'The Sentry', part of a 1954 folio of lino-cuts to mark the centenary of the Eureka Stockade.

The Eureka Stockade folio is documented at the Museum of Australian Democracy (see links). The folio was made by the Melbourne Popular Art Group, led by Noel Counihan. Many of the artists, including Carter, were communist party members. Like many who traditionally rallied to the Eureka flag, Carter was fighting for the 'fair go', especially for the marginalised. He recognised the brutality of 19th and early 20th century capitalism and sought to end it peacefully.

Maurice Carter was a revolutionary, caring for all. His physical difficulties could not prevent him from developing his mind and his gifts, that he so eloquently used to help make this a better world, by working for peace and freedom all his adult life.

'Our Street' scans provided and reproduced
courtesy of the
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra.

#1



NGA Acc. No. 74.180

This image will be recreated on
the Corner of Montague and
Dorcas.

#2



NGA Acc. No. 74.178

This image will be recreated on
the corner of Moray and Bank.

#3



NGA Acc. No. 74.179

The chosen site for this image is
in front of the town hall. The
location is at the heart of the
suburb, and has been important
since pre-colonial times.

#4



NGA Acc. No. 74.177

This image will be recreated at
the corner of Clarendon and
Coventry, which is at the centre of
the South Melbourne shopping
area.

#5



NGA Acc. No. 74.176

This image will
be located in
Kirrip Park,
adjacent to
South Melbourne
primary school,
at the northern
end of South
Melbourne.

Links



City of Port Phillip
Cultural Activities,
Walks and Trails



Museum of
Australian Democracy
on the
Eureka Centenary
Portfolio



National Gallery, Australia
Link to Introduction of
'Our Street'



Blog for project on
social media channel
<https://minds.com/HaroldWilliam>