

MEDIA RELEASE

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MOVING GALLERIES' LATEST EXHIBITION TRANSFORMS MELBOURNE'S TRAIN'S THROUGH ART

Moving Galleries', continues its love affair of showcasing the city's art to the transport users of Melbourne with its upcoming 2009 *Transformation* exhibition. The exhibition will show art projects that have 'transformed' everyday spaces in and around Melbourne.

Supported by Connex and the Department of Transport, Moving Galleries exhibits 18 artworks and 23 poems across 40 Connex trains, displaying in all 1440 posters to be enjoyed by Connex customers.

"More than 350,000 people every day have the opportunity to enjoy these works. The average journey time is around a half an hour so there should be ample opportunity to peruse some poetry, reflect on some art, and consider its meaning," said Bruce Hughes, Connex Deputy Chairman.

For this project Moving Galleries formed an art partnership with Creative Spaces, an initiative of the City of Melbourne and Arts Victoria that provides information on arts spaces across the State. Creative Spaces is a digital resource that encourages the use of urban and rural environments as locations for creative projects in addition to traditional venues.

The 2009 Transformation exhibition documents art projects that enliven spaces such as laneways, city squares, footpaths, and iconic landmarks, altering their everyday function.

Moving Galleries and Creative Spaces put out a call to artists to submit work that utilised spaces in non-traditional ways. Organisations such as Melbourne's Next Wave Festival and the Melbourne City Council Laneway Commission were also contacted for suitable projects.

Jessie Doring, Moving Galleries' Project Manager, says that the incentive is to showcase Melbourne's strong public art culture, bringing the hidden and the fleeting installations to a wider audience.

"The exhibition is a celebration of the collaborative process between Victoria's artists, the arts organisations and festivals who work to platform artists, and of course, the photographers who have worked to document the projects" Ms Doring said.

Moving Galleries has been moving art and poetry around the city since 2006 as part of the Committee for Melbourne's incentive to build on Melbourne's renowned cultural identity.

"The themes and styles of the art and poetry reflect Melbourne's own distinctive character" Chairman of the Committee for Melbourne, Mr George Pappas said.

Moving Galleries' 2009 *Transformations* exhibition will be appearing on Connex trains from June 17, 2009 and will continue for approximately six months.

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