

WATERMARK



Sixth Street WATERMARK Public Art Project

Watermark – art and culture inscribed into the urban landscape to mark and celebrate the environment, Indigenous culture and the community, inspired by the marks/intervention into the environment made by the River Murray. Just like a watermark the public artwork leaves its embedded/embossed mark within the public realm.

If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water. Loren Eiseley.

Artists were invited to exercise their artistic expression and creativity in response to the theme of Watermark, to create an artwork that will have prominence on Murray Bridge’s main street and will act as an entry statement to the Sixth Street art precinct.

Three projects make up the Watermark public art project.

Artworks respond to the theme of *Watermark*, with its reference to the River Murray and the significance of the river’s impact on the surrounding environment and the community.

BACKGROUND

Sixth Street is located in the very heart of Murray Bridge, linking two shopping precincts and playing host to the region’s two major arts facilities: the Murray Bridge Town Hall theatre and Murray Bridge Regional Gallery. In 2017-18, the Sixth Street Revitalisation Project brought extensive redevelopment to this precinct, setting the scene for an exciting, liveable and activated destination.

Public art has been at the core of the vision for the Sixth St Revitalisation Project. One prominent wall in the precinct has already been utilised as part of the Hope Street street-art project.

1. **KNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY** by Kevin Kropinyeri

This work will symbolically proclaim that the precinct is on the traditional lands of the Ngarrindjeri people. It will also serve as visual communication of traditional Ngarrindjeri culture which continues to be practiced and celebrated by the community today, enriching us all.

This work is currently in progress and located on the front retaining wall of Murray Bridge Regional Gallery.

2. **OVERFLOW** by Manning Daly (Glen Manning and Kathy Daly)

This work is located on the corner of Sixth and Bridge Streets, with the historic Town Hall in the background.

Visible from the footpath and roadway, in an important cultural hub and pedestrian link through the town centre, *Overflow* utilises curved, mirror polished stainless steel elements that arise from the ground surface, the polished steel reflecting the surrounding landscape like the reflections on the surface of the Murray River.

The dynamic flowing vertical elements 'overflow' with water pumped through the forms, as the water emerges from the top of the steel tubes it clings to the polished surface as it flows down into 'art' grates designed to appear like ripples around the vertical elements. Our art concept will create a meaningful sculpture that is grounded and embedded in the rich history and bright future for the Murray Bridge community, connecting stories, journeys and a sense of place that reference the significance of this site.

3. **REFLECTED** by James Voller

A series of three freestanding sculptures located along Sixth Street, between Fourth Street and South Terrace. They serve to create a link through the precinct and draw people through the street.

These works respond to Murray Bridge and the River Murray, looking at the history of the river while also exploring the importance of the river for future generations. They examine the translucent and transparent qualities of both water and glass.

The works are images of water reflections printed into toughened Digiglass panels, appearing translucent like water. The transparency of the works allows the viewer to look through them and contemplate the town's history and heritage, and the inherent link between the town's identity and the river. Metaphorically, the viewer is able to look into the past and the future of the town, and reflect on how the river is used and interacted with today, as well as the links between place and nature.