



CANBERRA CITY Public Art Walking Trail

Ethos, Tom Bass, 1961 copper.

Discover Canberra through public art!

Public art invites us to see the world differently. It sparks curiosity, deepens our connection to place, and adds meaning to our surroundings. Across Canberra, more than 150 artworks help tell the city's story, reflecting its history, culture, and ongoing transformation.

This curated trail showcases a selection of these works, offering a unique way to explore Canberra's evolving character. Whether you're a first-time visitor or returning to discover something new, each sculpture adds a layer to the landscape and invites you to pause, reflect and enjoy.

This self-paced art walking trail features three options:
orange (20 min), blue (15 min), pink (20 min) and is suitable for most ages and fitness levels.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region.

Produced by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate.

1 ETHOS Tom Bass

Meet *Ethos*, Canberra's first commissioned public artwork. The winged female figure represents civic pride, her flowing robe embossed with intricate emblems and figures that reflect the diverse community. She stands in a dish featuring a relief map of Canberra and raises a radiant sun, symbolising culture, enlightenment and the spirit of a growing capital city.

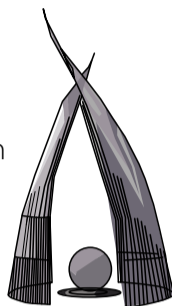
1961 copper.



2 ACT MEMORIAL Matthew Harding

This memorial honours individuals with a connection to the ACT who have served Australia in war, peacekeeping and humanitarian missions. The memorial is a place of reflection and gratitude. You can explore the names and stories of those commemorated at memorial.act.gov.au

2006 black granite & stainless-steel.



3 ETERNITY John Robinson

This elegant Möbius ring sculpture, with one continuous surface and edge, symbolises love, unity and the infinite nature of life. Cast in Italy and gifted anonymously, it reflects the artist's deep faith in humanity's future and invites visitors to contemplate timeless connection.

1981 bronze & painted steel.



4 THE BIG LITTLE MAN Dean Bowen

This delightful bronze figure plays with scale and imagination. It appears both large and small, like a child's drawing brought to life. Whimsical and full of charm, it's a joyful celebration of creativity and play.

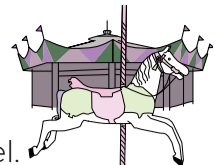
1999 bronze, edition 1 of 3.



5 CIVIC CAROUSEL Herbert Thompson

Step back in time with a ride on this beloved carousel. Originally delighting crowds on Melbourne's St Kilda Esplanade, this restored treasure came to Canberra through a local fundraising effort in the 1970s. Featuring hand-carved animals and jaunty tunes from a rare 69-key steam-powered pipe organ, the ride continues to enchant visitors of all ages. Open daily, 11:30 am to 2:30 pm.

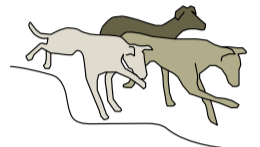
1914, wooden elements hand carved in Germany & metal horse poles crafted in Scotland.



6 BUSH PACK (NIL TENURE) Amanda Stuart

Seven bronze dogs race down City Walk in three lively groups. This artwork explores the tension between wild and tame, rural and urban, animal and human. It's a dynamic, thought-provoking piece that brings movement and metaphor to the city streets.

2011 bronze.



7 YOUNG EAGLE Qian Jian Hua

Perched above Bunda Street atop a poster pillar, this sculpture of a young eagle gazes down with intensity. The piece captures the energy, freedom and optimism of youth, sitting above the bustle of city life, taking it all in.

2009 bronze.



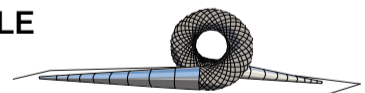
8 STREET ART Various artists

Street art helps create a vibrant, creative and inclusive city, and has the potential to bring colour, tell a story and inspire. The ACT Government provides opportunities for local artists by commissioning artwork across Canberra. There are 30 legal graffiti sites in Canberra for artists to practise. Tocumwal Lane, located off Bunda Street, is an ever-changing outdoor gallery, used to showcase Canberra art, street culture and music.

9 LIFE CYCLE David Jenz

This sculpture invites you to ponder the nature of space itself. Inspired by Albert Einstein's idea that space is "finite but unbounded," it reflects on the universe's expansion, curvature and mystery.

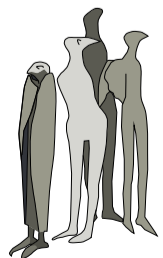
2010 stainless-steel & blue stone.



10 ICARUS Jan Brown

Inspired by the myth of Icarus, who flew too close to the sun, this sculpture captures both the thrill of ambition and the tragedy of overreach. This piece invites empathy for youthful daring and reflection on the consequences of bold dreams.

2009 bronze.



Best seen at night!



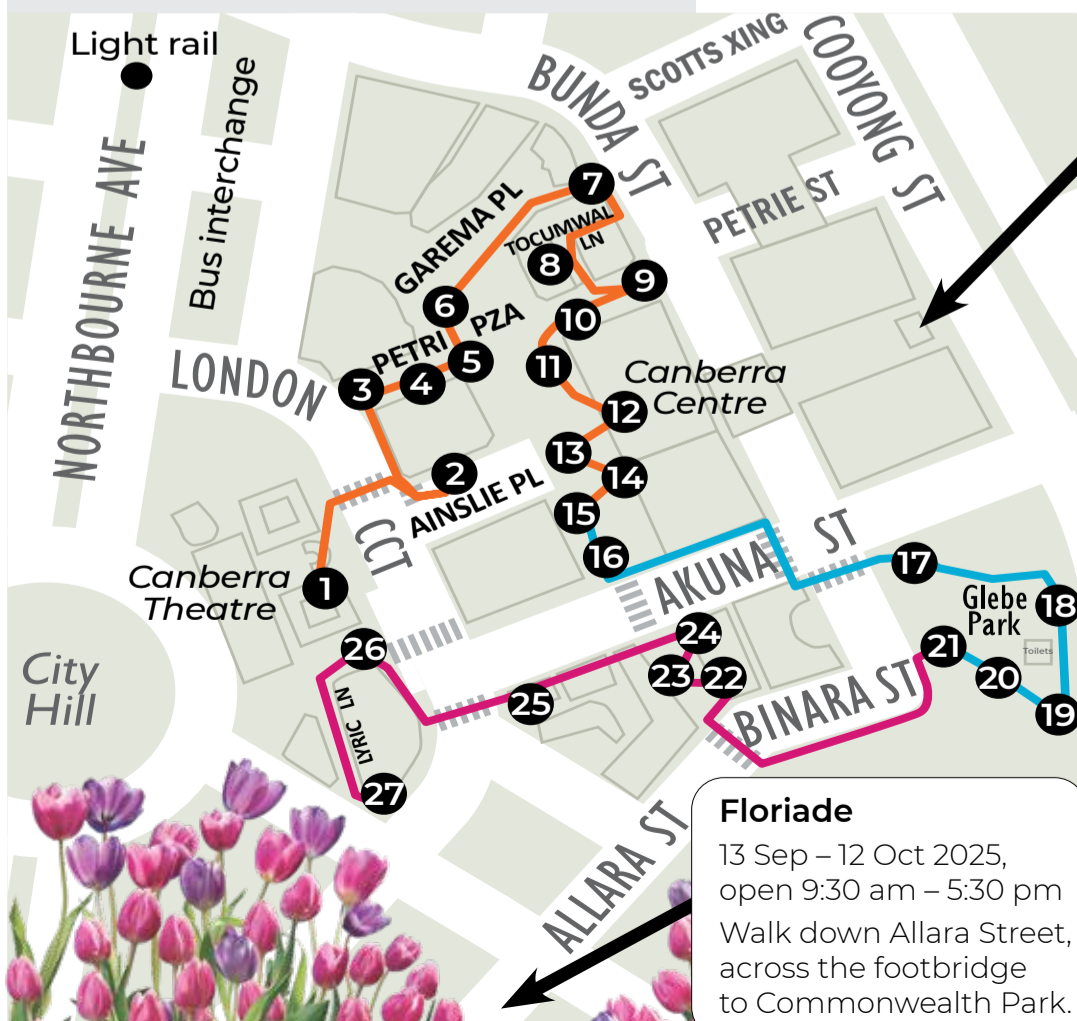
ILLUMICUBE Kerry Simpson

A Canberra icon since the 80s, refurbished in 2024 and now featuring programmable lighting. See Illumicube glow from dusk until 1 am. Located on the Cooyong Street side of the Canberra Centre. Perfect for evening photos.

1988/2024 glass bricks, LEDs.

Floriade

13 Sep – 12 Oct 2025,
open 9:30 am – 5:30 pm
Walk down Allara Street,
across the footbridge
to Commonwealth Park.

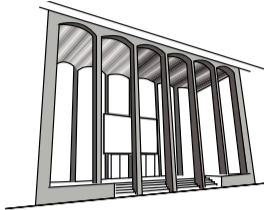


11 AINSLIE'S SHEEP
Les Kossatz



A playful nod to Canberra's pastoral roots, this sculpture references James Ainslie, an early pastoralist who arrived in this area in 1825. The artwork is a satirical take on the city's rural past, once described as "a good sheep paddock spoiled."
2001 aluminum.

12 STAR CEILING
Frank Hinder



Look up as you enter the Canberra Centre! Overhead, a stunning glass mosaic ceiling is a revelation of colour and light. This radiant work offers a glimpse into Canberra's artistic legacy.
1963 glass tiles.

13 CANBERRA TIMES FOUNTAIN
Robert Woodward



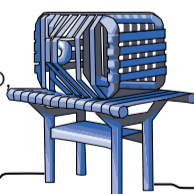
This striking fountain was generously gifted by Fairfax Media to commemorate the 50th anniversary of The Canberra Times newspaper. Created by renowned architect, Robert Woodward, the artwork combines the movement of water, with sleek contemporary urban design. A Canberra landmark, inviting visitors to pause, reflect and appreciate the cityscape.
1979 stainless-steel.

14 THE OTHER SIDE OF MIDNIGHT
Anne Ross



This whimsical sculpture complements the nearby Civic Carousel and playfully explores the magical space between reality and imagination. The artwork is a joyful celebration of wonder, nostalgia and the timeless delight of being transported to another world.
2012 bronze & enamel paint.

15 LIVING SPACE
Angela Dufty & Geoff Farquhar Still (KunstForce)



A quirky lounge room setup, complete with a retro TV, this artwork mirrors the design of Canberra's street furniture at the time. A playful tribute to domestic life in a public setting.
2003 painted metal.

16 THE MASTER'S VOICE
Sonia Leber & David Chesworth

Speakers embedded in the wall surprise passersby with mysterious voices. This sound installation, featuring pet owners talking to their pets, transforms the street into a stage, inviting you to listen closely and wonder. Recordings play sporadically throughout the day.
2001 digital recording & stainless-steel grills.

17 WINDSTONE - A TRAIL OF A CLOUD
Koichi Ishino



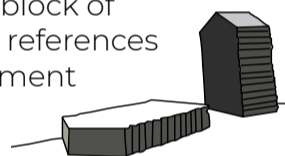
This sculpture contrasts the rough texture of granite with the smooth, reflective surface of stainless steel. The artwork is a poetic blend of earth and sky, solidity and airiness, inviting inspection both up close and from afar as part of the surrounding park landscape.
2010 stainless-steel & granite.

18 EGLÉ QUEEN OF SERPENTS
Ieva Pocius



Based on a Lithuanian folk tale, this sculpture tells the story of Eglė, who marries a sea serpent king but longs to return home. Upon reaching land, she is transformed into a tree. A gift from the Lithuanian community for Australia's Bicentenary, this artwork brings to life a poignant tale of love loss and transformation.
1988 bronze.

19 THE GLEBE
Hew Chee Fong & L.M. Noonan



Carved from a single block of granite, this sculpture references early European settlement and the legacy of Glebe House, once situated on this site. While the work honours architectural heritage, it also offers space to reflect on the layered histories of the area.
2002 grandee granite & porphyry pavers.

20 POETS' CORNER
Cathy Weizsmann



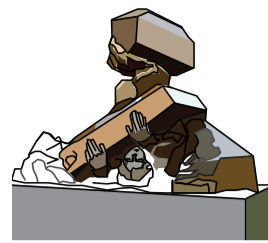
Three bronze busts honour iconic Australian poets, Judith Wright, A.D. Hope and David Campbell. It's a quiet corner of literary reverence, celebrating voices that shaped the nation's poetic identity.
2012 bronze & granite.

21 MOHANDAS KARAMCHAND GANDHI
Ram V. Sutar



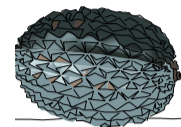
A tribute to Gandhi, the Indian leader who championed non-violent resistance and led India to independence. This sculpture honours peace, justice and moral courage. A gift from Canberra's Indian community.
2002 bronze.

22 RESILIENCE
Ante Dabro



This powerful artwork captures the universal journey through pain, struggle and hope, speaking to the strength of the human spirit. The piece was commissioned by Consolidated Builders Ltd.
2008 bronze.

23 CASUARINA PODS
Matthew Harding



Three oversized seed pods appear to tumble down a grassy slope where a creek once flowed. They seem to have fallen from nearby trees, blending natural form with playful scale.
2001 bronze.

24 WIND SCULPTURE
Ernst Fries



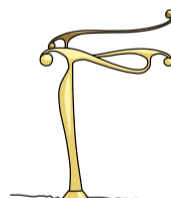
This kinetic sculpture moves in response to shifting winds and changing light. The artwork's dynamic form mirrors the rhythm of the natural world, creating a living dialogue between art and landscape.
1981 stainless-steel & painted steel.

25 CHOICE OF PASSAGE
Philip Spelman



Abstract columns form a graceful archway, suggesting a threshold or journey. Whether a beginning or an end, the artwork invites you to pause, reflect and choose your path.
2008 painted steel.

26 BIG SNAKE
Phil Price



Towering above, this kinetic sculpture sways with the wind, inspired by the movement and form of a snake. One of several sculptures by the artist in Canberra, *Big Snake* is a part of the Capital Property Group collection.
2020 stainless-steel & composite.

27 WINDSWEPT
April Pine



This sculpture honours Andrew Inglis Clark (1848 – 1907), engineer, reformer and architect of the Australian Constitution. Combining traditional portraiture with modern technology, the artwork reflects his passion for science, art and progress. Capital Property Group collection.
2020 corten-steel.



**FOR MORE CLASSIC
CANBERRA EXPERIENCES**

visitcanberra.com.au
arts.act.gov.au/public-art

[visitcanberra_artsACT_](https://www.instagram.com/visitcanberra_artsACT_)

