

## Soleil, Adelaide Street, Brisbane

Brecknock Consulting was engaged by Meriton to curate and project manage public art commissions for *Soleil*, Brisbane's tallest residential apartment, located at the corner of Adelaide and Boundary Streets in the CBD. Rising to 74 levels with over 400 apartments, the building is a landmark feature for Brisbane's city skyline. Brisbane City Council's percent for art obligations required the commissioning of contemporary public art to be integrated into the development. Brecknock Consulting facilitated a direct commission process enabling the selected artists to work closely with the DBI architectural team.

This central city precinct, known as Petrie Bight, is historically significant as Brisbane's earliest site of commerce, industry and residence, including the town's first residence, home of free settler Andrew Petrie, and early workshops, stone and timber yards, followed in later years by The Gas Works and Howard Smith Wharves. In many ways, *Soleil* heralds a new era of development from this point of origin in an expanding contemporary metropolis. The commissioned artworks express concepts of dynamic change and exchange between the building and its environment as integrated urban abstractions.

*Flux*, by Perth-based artist Stuart Green, provides a permeable, ventilating 'skin' for the building's drive-way, as a series of vertical bars. Each bar is bent in sections to create the illusions of water ripples across the work's surface. The work thus engages a visual dynamism between negative space and positive form, between a solid geometry and a fluid illusion, and between the building and the nearby Brisbane River with its swirling surface of eddies in shadow play.

*Collective*, by Brisbane-based artist Daniel Templeman, also creates a visual dynamism through a language of contemporary abstraction. The work features a grid of box-like clusters lining each side of the building's Adelaide Street entrance. Each cluster contains a unique box arrangement and the work sets up an intense interplay of repetition and variation within a strict and formal composition. This is further enhanced by the plays of light, shadow and reflection within the scored surfaces of the sculptures and the black marble walls on which they're mounted. The work expresses a fascinating contradictory dynamic between limitlessness and containment, as an enduring threshold experience for

this urban address.



Geelong Public Art Policy/Strategy



Since August 2011 we have had the pleasure of working with the Arts and Culture Department team at the City of Greater Geelong on the development of a Public Art Policy/Strategy. The City of Greater Geelong includes not only the central Geelong city area but numerous coastal and rural hinterland townships therefore representing a dynamic mix of communities, natural and built environments, history and sense of place.

The municipality has a rich history of commissioning monuments and public art and has therefore developed an extensive collection of works. In recent times major commissions by Council have included *North* by artist Mark Stoner, prominently located on the Port Phillip Bay foreshore. [see images below]

The project has involved extensive consultation with members of staff across the organisation and at all levels of management and officers. External consultation included workshops with representatives of the arts sector and young people from across the municipality. We are currently refining a draft strategy with Council that will provide a strategic approach to both commissioning new work and managing the existing collection.



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