

ARTWORKS

Victorian County Court Facility



Photo :
 Courtesy Ken Irwin

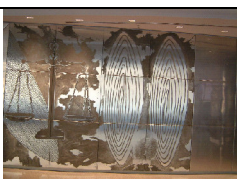
The Lady of Justice - William Eicholtz

External Entrance

William Eicholtz, known for his grand, large-scale, theatrical sculptures, divides his time between public works and gallery exhibitions. He has had numerous prominent commissions and actively participates in community initiatives, placing sculptures in the public environment. He is a tertiary tutor in sculpture and works from his Melbourne studio.

"The Lady of Justice", with its combination of highly detailed drapery and smooth flat areas, evokes an image of Grecian relief sculpture - perhaps of ruins pieced back together.

The image is of a strong, mature female figure, described by sumptuous robes. Her face, feet and arms are devoid of detail, indicating no specific age, race or religion. The Victorian Southern Cross is at her side and therefore she becomes a symbol of fairness and equality in this state." [William Eicholtz 2002]



Ngarrn-Gi - Land/Law - Judy Watson

Ground Floor Public Entrance

This artwork was designed by commissioned artist Judy Watson and produced in collaboration with the Australian Print Workshop, Melbourne. Joy Murphy Wandin, a Victorian Aboriginal Elder of the Wurundjeri people, has named the wall NGARRN-GI (to know) from her language, Woiwurrung.

"For Aboriginal people, Land is integral to their cultural life - Water is a significant part of this. The importance of water is symbolised here by the wash, a signifier of the river and the dreaming paths along it. Elements of landforms and the river talk about connections between countries and families along these paths. (Taken from a conversation with Monica Morgan of the Yorta Yorta Aboriginal Nation, Victoria).

Some of the images represented here include legal wigs, gowns, Victoria's old County Court building, ceremonial jabot and cuffs, the ground floor plans of the old law courts, law books, the County Court emblem, scales of justice, County Court stamp and Judy's own personal images.

Indigenous Law in Australia predates the introduced British Common Law. Both systems of Law are strong. Aboriginal Law is inextricably linked to Land and is embodied within it." [Judy Watson 2002].



Quality of Mercy - Colin Lanceley

Level 1 Public Hall

Colin Lanceley was born in Dunedin, New Zealand and now resides in Sydney. He is a leading established international artist with extensive exhibits in the National Gallery of Australia, many international museums in the USA and across Europe and New Zealand.

"My contribution to the New County Court involves suspended coloured glass panels in a rectangular shape within a stainless steel frame, which exploits the natural light in the Public Hall (Level 1). The glass is coloured and "painted" with an abstract justice theme.

My large glasswork is a representation of Justice as a radiant and triumphal presence facing into the Public Hall. Glimpses of the coloured sections can also be seen from the upper floors viewed from behind.

Given the solemn mood of the mechanics of Justice, I wanted to create a transcendental image of Justice unencumbered; hence the broken chains and the bird image representing freedom.

From the front, the Justice Figure rising from a stepped plinth has land imagery to the left and the sea to the right, the theme being justice over all.

The title is of course from Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice", well known to the Law." [Colin Lanceley 2002].