

Press statement

LION ARTS COURTYARD SCULPTURE

Songs of Australia Volume 3 - At Home, by South Australian-born Aleks Danko, is a sculpture in which the ideas behind the work – which has the theme of ‘home’ – are accessible and meaningful to us all. *At Home* is about where Aleks Danko grew up in suburban Edwardstown, with his emigrant Ukrainian parents. It is a heartfelt work in which Danko sees himself as giving something back to his home: that is – Adelaide, South Australia.

The work’s placement in the Lion Arts courtyard – between institutional and public space – is calculated to remind us of the place in which we live.

Danko is a graduate of the South Australian School of Art and an artist of national standing, with a distinguished career spanning over forty years. In 2002 he was awarded the National Gallery of Victoria’s *Contemporaria Fellowship*: earlier this year his work was featured in the prestigious Biennale of Sydney.

Songs of Australia Volume 3 - At Home was commissioned by the University of South Australia, to stand as a symbolic welcome to students and visitors at the then, relatively new, UniSA City West campus. The project was enthusiastically supported by the State Government through ArtsSA and by the Federal Government through the Australia Council.

The completed sculpture was launched in 1999, after UniSA had first secured the endorsement of key stakeholders and tenants around the Lion Arts Centre for its construction. Typical of strong and interesting public art, *Songs of Australia Volume 3 - At Home* does from time to time attract reaction and comment from users and tenants of the Lion Arts Centre. Perhaps those who are currently expressing opinions were not a part of the original consensus to commission and build the art work, however that is the nature of the passing of time.

Ultimately, *Songs of Australia Volume 3 - At Home* is a distinctive and unusual public sculpture by a renowned South Australian artist. As a work of art it is undoubtedly challenging, but that is its virtue: for those who would reflect, it presents a complexity of engaging ideas, metaphors and meanings. It also embodies a friendly humour, as well as seriousness of purpose.

At Home is a rich and valuable addition to the aggregate of Adelaide’s contemporary public art. It is the nature of all challenging art that it will be both admired, and sometimes also reviled and debated. That is its useful power.

Erica Green
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