

THE MANY MEN WHO WERE KILLED
ALONG THE COASTLINE WERE
MURDERED BECAUSE THEY WERE GAY.

THEIR HOPES FOR LIVING A LIFE
FREELY AND HONESTLY WERE
DESTROYED ON THE ROCKS BELOW.

THEY WERE KILLED – MID-DANCE...

WE DANCE ON



THIS MEMORIAL,
CONSISTING OF THREE
COLUMNS WRAPPED
IN A PROCESSION OF
DANCING FIGURES.

THIS MEMORIAL
WILL COMMEMORATE
TRAGIC LOSS AND
OFFER US HOPE.

WE DANCE ON



WHY WE DANCE ON

We Dance On appropriates vandalised classicism as a symbol of the senseless destruction of beauty. Broken columns are a traditional memorial symbol of lives cut short, but these narrative columns do not speak of a Victorian-era sentiment. These baroquely decorated columns are pulsing with human activity, joy and beauty.

This sculpture memorialises the vitality, visibility and energy of the gay men who were victims of these hate crimes. The smashed columns symbolise the violence, the breaking of the person.

WE DANCE ON

“NO MATTER WHO WE ARE,
AND WHO WE LOVE,
WE WILL DANCE ON.”

At the same time, this sculpture embodies a resurrection, entwined in spirited movement, and an inextinguishable hope for a better, kinder, more inclusive future.

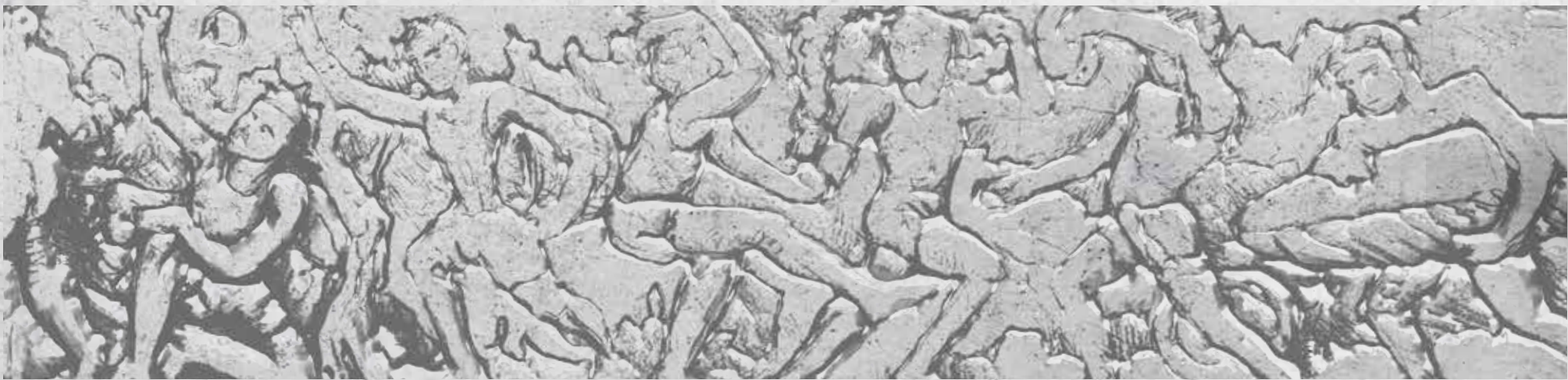
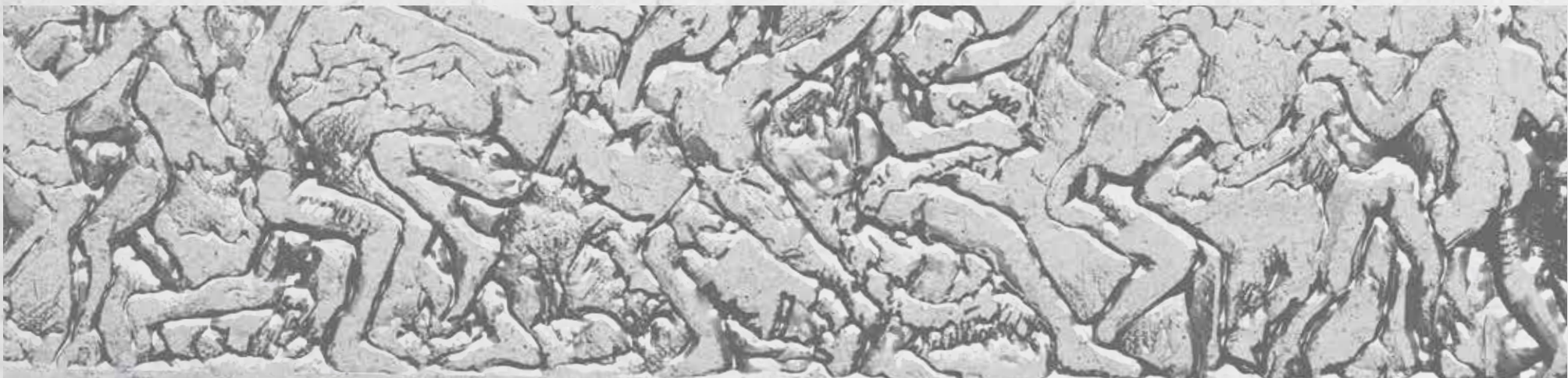
As a memorial, it’s important to acknowledge that these ugly, vicious crimes actually happened.

But it’s equally important that a memorial inspire us to look towards a future where hate does not and will not win.

No matter who we are, and who we love,
we will dance on.



IN DETAIL



Artist's impression, cast white concrete engraving detail

WE DANCE ON

1.6m



2.5m



Artist's impression, cast white concrete

GAY LIFE & HATE CRIMES

This memorial recognises the extensive gay hate crimes that happened in Sydney in the late 1980s and 1990s.

These crimes coincided brutally with the burgeoning pride and visibility of Sydney's gay community. This memorial is absolutely defiant in its expression of gay sexuality.

We Dance On refuses to be generic. It is a memorial for all people who will not be silent or neutered or have their sexuality erased or disguised by a slick, sterile memorial using familiar symbols. It is a new and unifying symbol for everything we are and everything we will be.

WE DANCE ON

WE DANCE ON IS PRIDE.

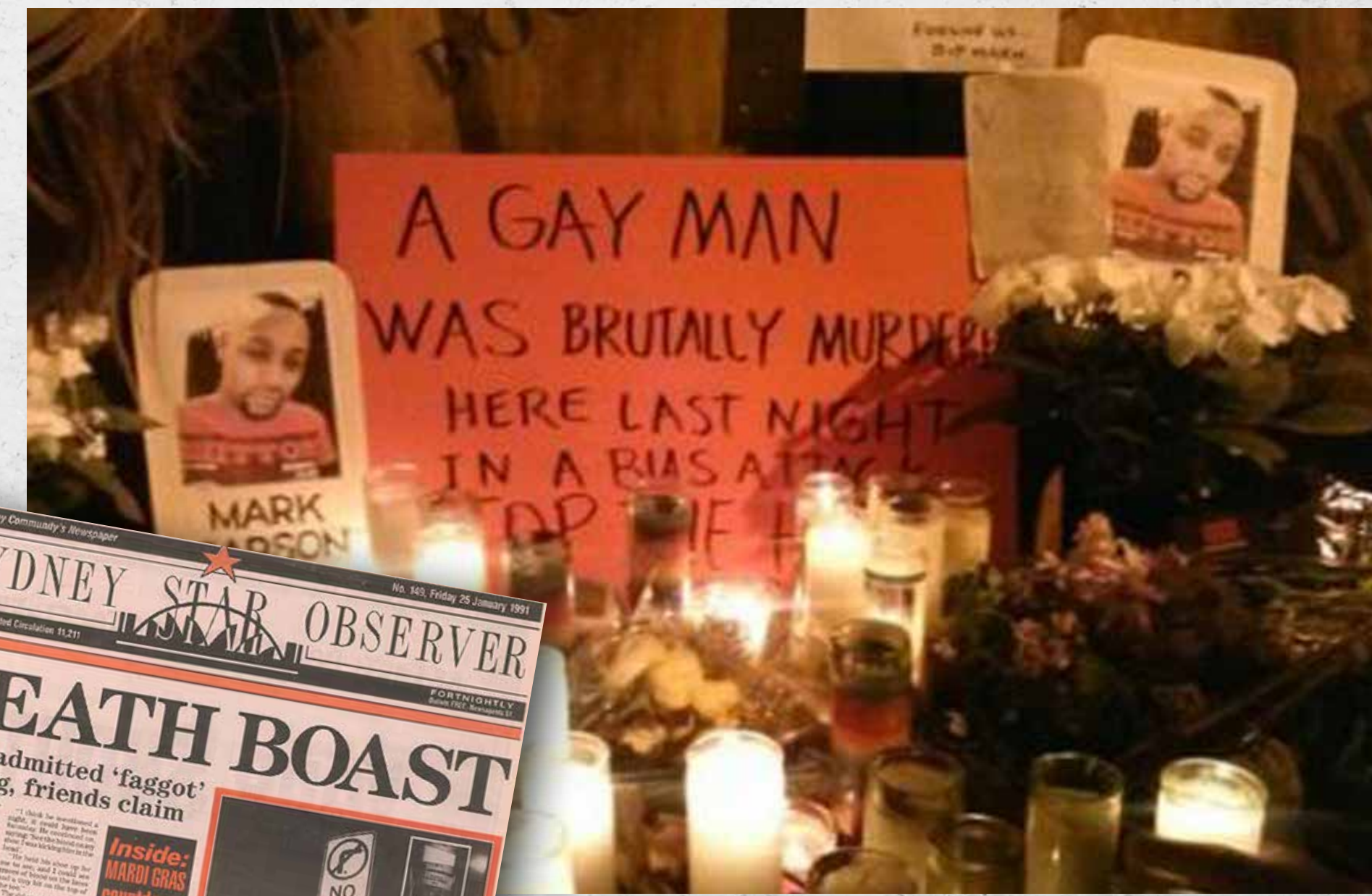
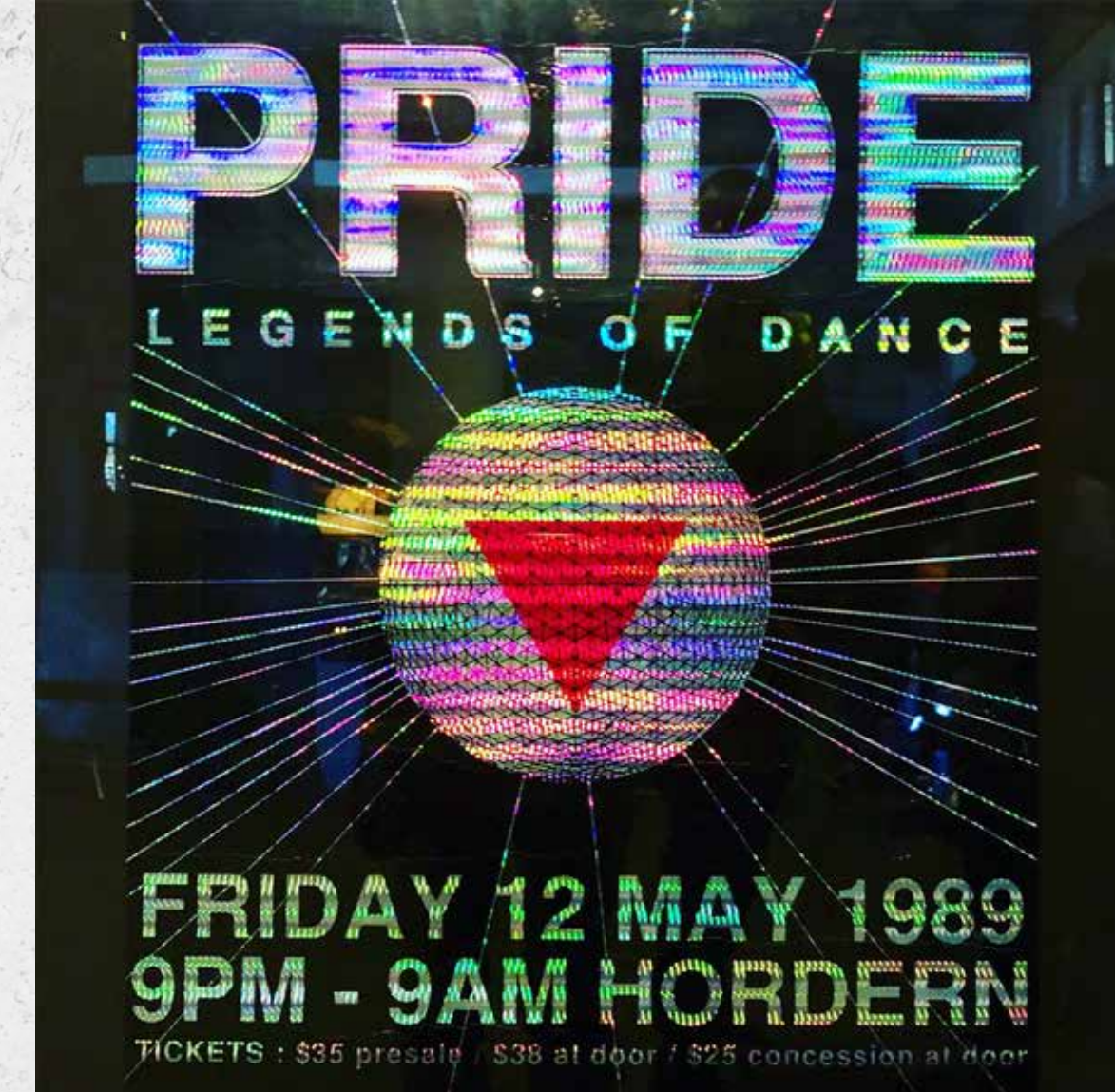
WE DANCE ON IS SEXUALITY.

WE DANCE ON IS PHYSICALITY.

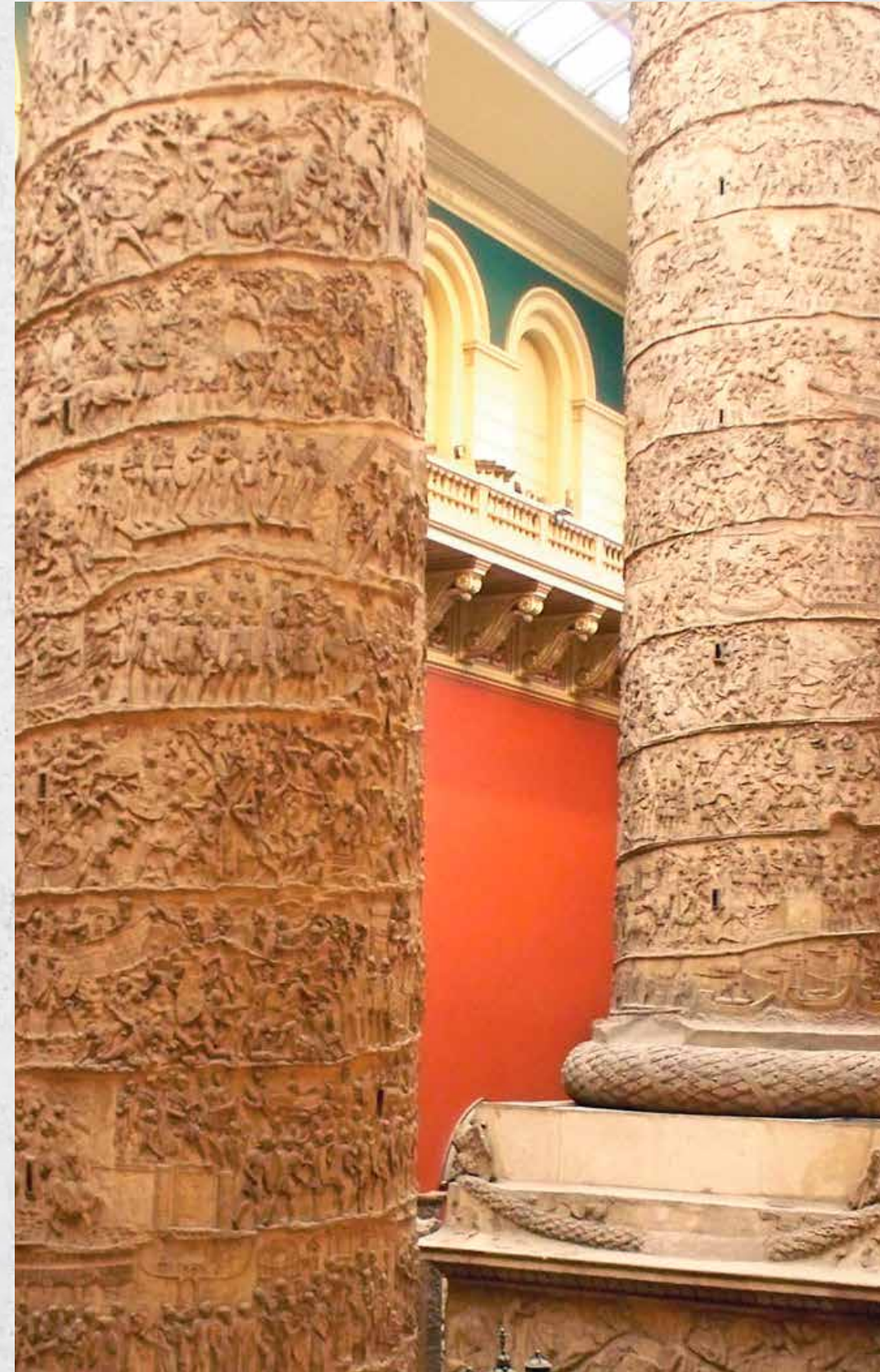
WE DANCE ON IS COMMUNITY.

WE DANCE ON IS TIMELESS.

WE DANCE ON IS LIFE FORCE.



INFLUENCES



- fig i.* Polykleitos, *Doryphoros* 440BC
fig ii. *Memorial to Homosexuals Persecuted Under Nazism* - Elmgreen and Dragset 2008
fig iii. *Under the Topiary-* William Eicholtz 2017

- fig iv.* *Three Graces-* Sandro Botticelli 1473
fig v. *Trajans Column, Rome* 107-113 AD
fig vi. *Australian Beach Pattern, Charles Meere* 1940

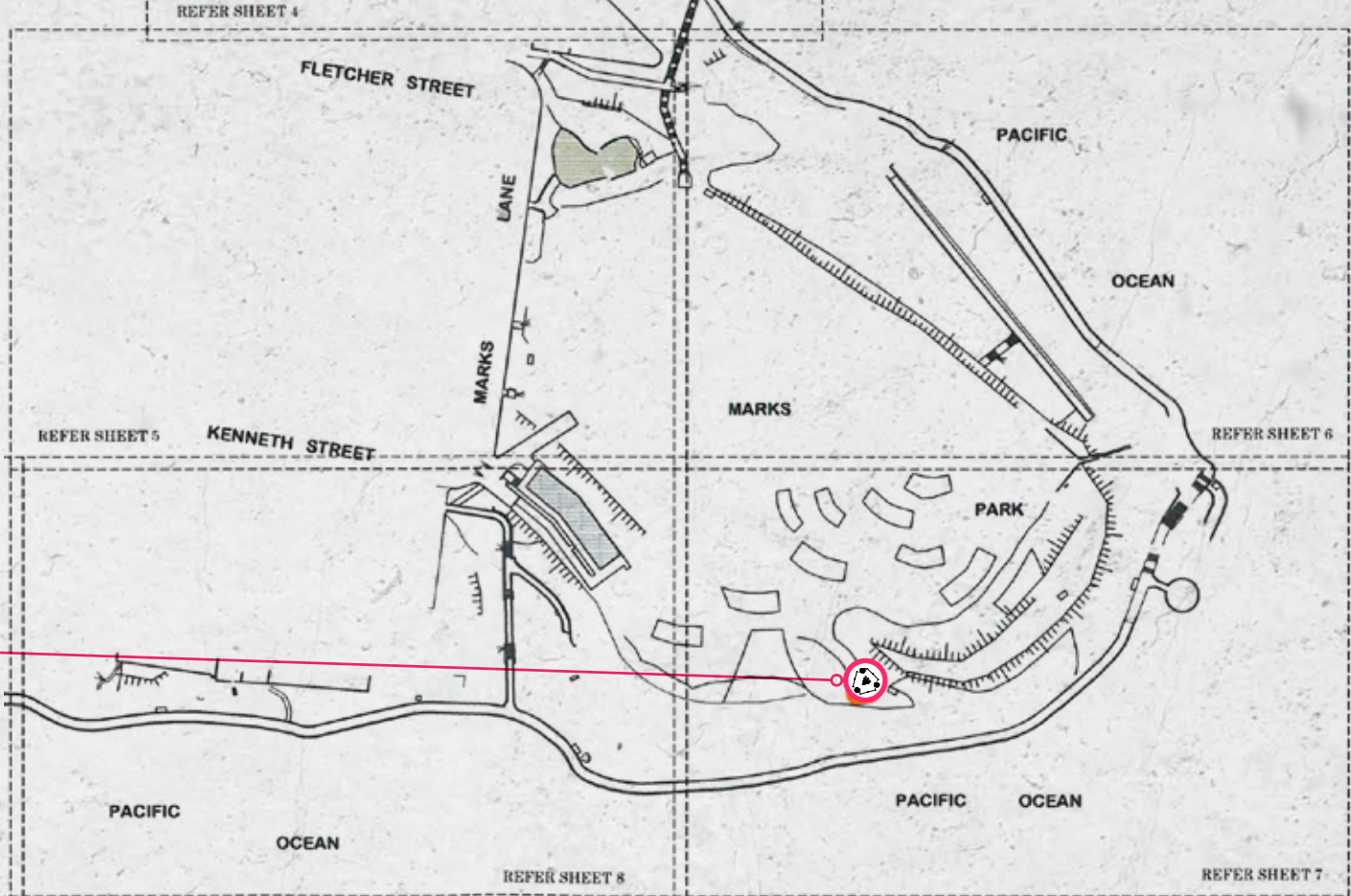
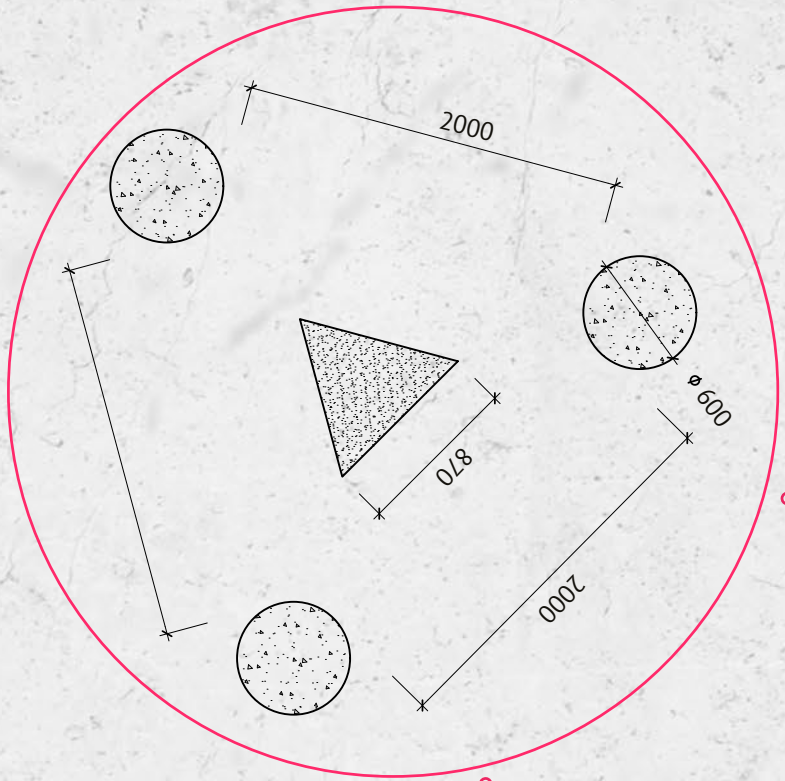
Memorial columns of the ancient classical world traditionally tell stories of deadly struggle, loss and victory, so appropriate to this site.

The Memorial for the Murdered Jews of Europe is echoed in the rising grouping of their queer brothers here in Marks Park, but these are uniquely contemporary and Australian.

We Dance On also incorporates references to much loved paintings by Charles Meere and Norman Lindsay that will intrigue and delight the public. These references firmly tie these columns to the Australian culture.

WE DANCE ON

MATERIALS & LANDSCAPE



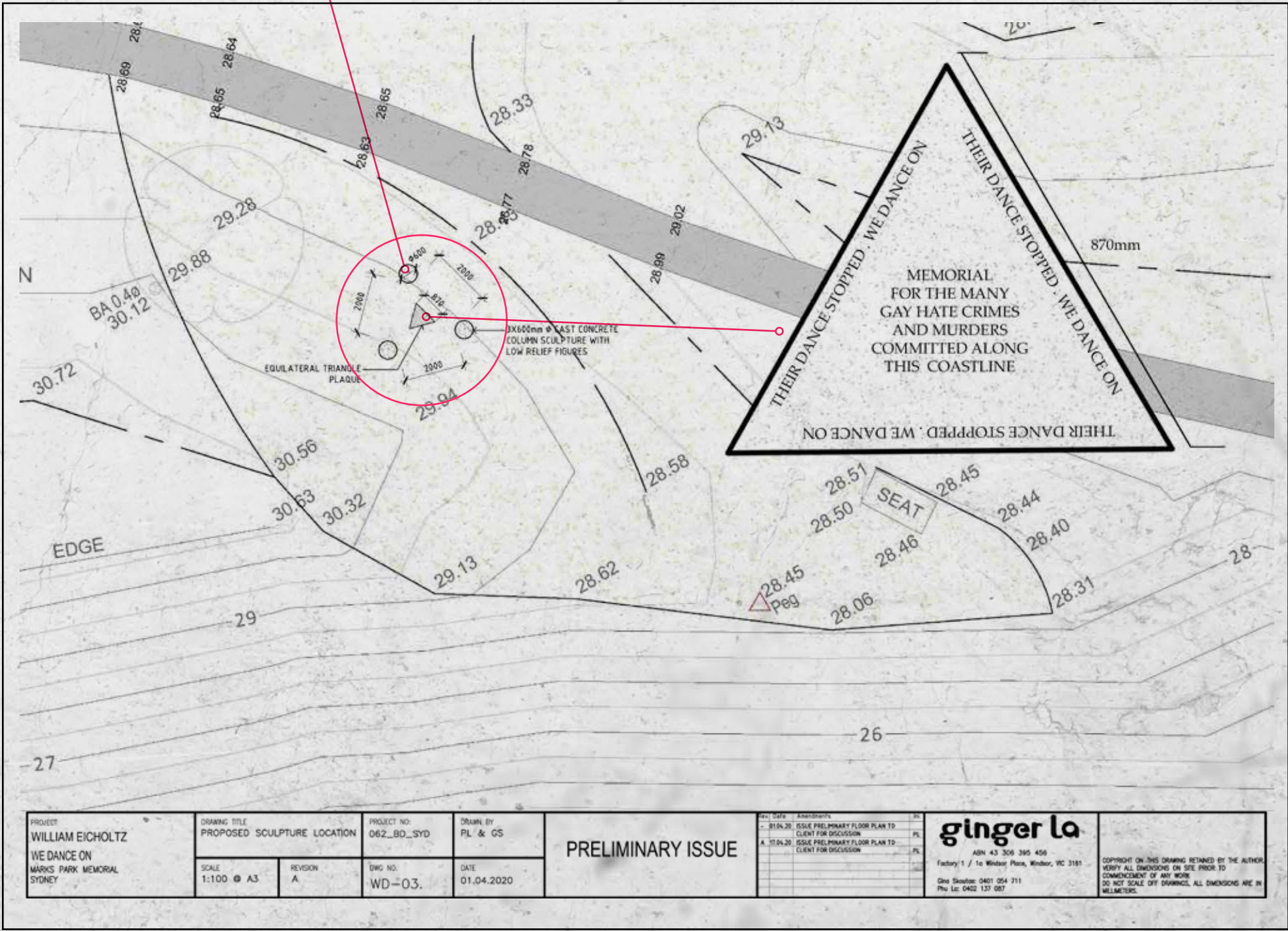
Artist's impression, cast white concrete

With such a stunning coastline backdrop, the materials for this sculpture have been chosen to be both sympathetic and striking to the scale and colours of the landscape.

The columns, set securely on permanent bases, will be cast white concrete which will develop its natural patina over the years of exposure to the elements. The columns will be staggered in height, from 1.6metres to 2.5metres.

They will be set 1.5 – 2 metres apart, forming a symbolically familiar triangular space. (There is an option to have a central triangle dedication slab laid.) The columns will create a quiet and serene space within, where visitors can weave between them and gaze beyond to the ocean to reflect.

Surrounded by existing greenery and set against the expansive backdrop of ocean and sky, this trio will stand immovably, defiantly and unapologetically within the landscape, a reminder of lives cut short.



PROJECT WILLIAM EICHLITZ WE DANCE ON MARKS PARK MEMORIAL SYDNEY	DRAWING TITLE PROPOSED SCULPTURE LOCATION	PROJECT NO. 062_BD_SYD	DRAWN BY PL & GS	PRELIMINARY ISSUE	REV. NO. 1 DATE 01.04.2020	ginger la ARCHITECTS 43/45 YORK STREET, SYDNEY, NSW 2000 TEL: 02 9231 1111 WWW.GINGERLA.COM.AU	COPYRIGHT ON THIS DRAWING REMAINS WITH THE AUTHOR. NO PART OF THIS DRAWING IS TO BE REPRODUCED OR TRANSMITTED IN ANY FORM OR BY ANY MEANS, ELECTRONIC OR MECHANICAL, INCLUDING PHOTOCOPYING, RECORDING, OR BY ANY INFORMATION STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEM, WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE AUTHOR.
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WE DANCE ON

ARTIST BIO



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WE DANCE ON

By fostering great working relationships with local foundries and fabricators as well as craftsmen as far away as China and India, William's figurative sculptures have always achieved excellent results.

Working from his studio in Melbourne, his nationwide public commissions have made him known for his unique vision and his ability to genuinely connect with the public.

As a gay artist, his work is heavily informed by a queer sensibility. His works are instantly engaging and dearly loved by the community.

Images of children playing on his COURAGE sculpture regularly appear online, while Instagrammers love posting pictures of themselves kissing the 'Comrade's butt - proof of the love and joy his sculptures bring to the general public.

William balances his time between contemporary gallery exhibitions and prizes, and public commissions across the country.

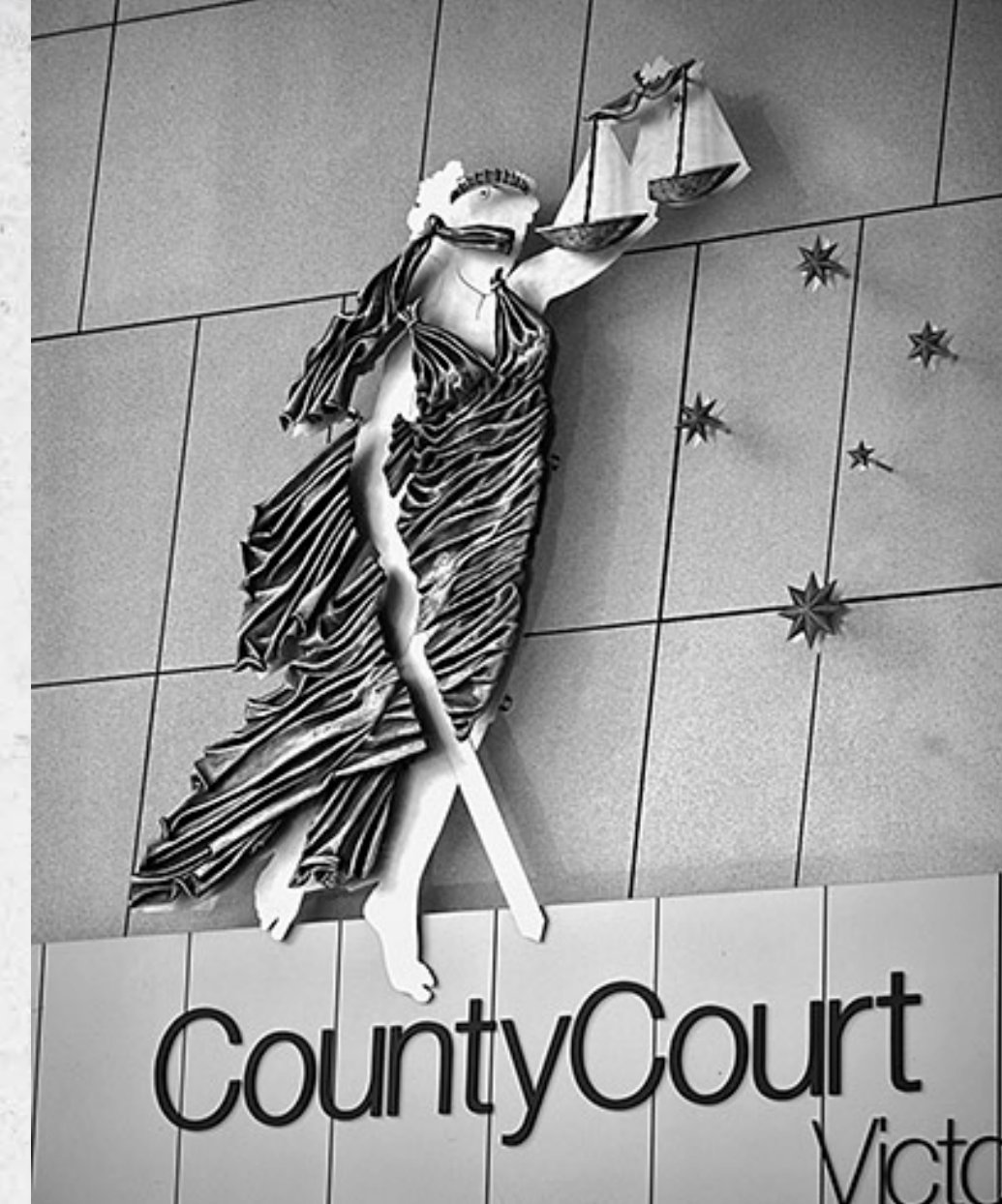


fig i. Lady of Justice – Victoria County Court – 2002,

fig ii. Werribee Park Mansion – The Comrades Reward, 2005

fig iii. Terpsichore's Tribute, Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi 2019

fig iv. COURAGE, City of Yarra 2014

fig v. Jumbuk Cornucopia 2008

