

andrew carter

a brief working history

Born in Goomalling in rural Western Australia in 1957, Andrew Carter has committed himself to the study and practice of the visual arts for an unbroken period of forty years. He has pursued many areas of the visual arts including Painting, Public Art/Sculpture, Print Making, Designing Scenery and Lighting for the Performing Arts as well as several collaborations in Installation and Furniture Design. He has also been a professional musician with bands in the USA and Australia. He has written several plays for the theatre, two of which won a place in the State Theatre Company's new playwrights competition in 1985-6. In 1979 he received a Bachelor Degree (Industrial Design) from Curtin University and in 1984 he graduated with a Masters Degree (Fine Arts) from Yale University in the United States. Since returning to Australia he has received several grants and awards for his contribution to the visual arts. These include the Creative Development Fellowship in Visual Arts from the WA Department For The Arts, a Green Room Award for Design in Melbourne and an Illuminating Engineering Award for the design of the Street Lighting Poles for the City of Joondalup, which he shared with the company ETC. Carter's design work is in many published books including, "World Scenography 2005-2015", "Production Design in Australia" and "Staging Ideas". He is also recognised in Curtin Universities publication "Degrees of Excellence".

Because Carter has not participated in competitions his reputation as a painter is not widely known outside his circle of clients. However, he has held 14 solo exhibitions of his paintings and participated in numerous group showings, with work held in several private collections including Kerry Stokes and the Royal Australian Navy. Past commissions have seen Carter in Hong Kong, Singapore, as well as Malaysia where he completed a series of large works on canvas for the international, multi media company, Vision Four, located in Kuala Lumpur. In Perth he was commissioned by the prestigious Kings Park restaurant Fraser's to create several works based on trips he had undertaken to the remote regions of Arnhem Land. Carter has also worked with the indigenous custodians of the Mimi Stories in Arnhem Land in collaboration with Stalker Theatre Company which became a major work for the 1999 Olympic Dreaming Festival in Sydney.

In 1994, wanting to move his work further into Asia, Carter created his own mini Festival in Malaysia in collaboration with the Australian Government (Carcosa Festival) linking Australian Art, Music and Dance. As well as being the Artistic Director, he exhibited a series of large paintings based on his travels. This began a series of commissions in South East Asia over a three-year period. The Perth International Arts Festival (PIAF) commissioned Carter to create an installation for its 1999 season, Socket, which combined his skills in design, painting and music to create a large scale work based on the subject of "Icons and X-rays", collaborating with Radiologist, Dr Alar Kaard to deconstruct the concept of beauty through x-ray imaging techniques. As well, Carter was responsible for the creation of The Watershed, a multi purpose, live music venue. In September 2001, Carter was the Production Designer for the largest Indigenous cultural gathering in Australia, the Yeperenye Federation Festival, held in Alice Springs. Carter collaborated with indigenous artists from across Australia. The work involved creating a camping ground for thirty-five thousand people as well as five performance stages. The event featured past Prime Ministers, Gough Whitlam and Malcolm Fraser who appeared on the stage together with many artists including Yothu Yindi and Paul Kelly.

As well as Painting and Physical Theatre, Carter has produced work for every International Arts Festival in Australia and worked with every major Dance company including The Australian Ballet, WA Ballet, Sydney Dance Company, Chunky Move and Australian Dance Theatre. Overseas, he has created Designs for the Nederland's Dans Theatre, The Royal Ballet (Covent Gardens) the Royal Danish Ballet, the Dutch Nationale as well as working for the Bermuda Festival, Amsterdam Festival, The Heerlen Festival and Denver Arts Festival. As a result, Carter has had work tour North and South America, much of Europe, and South East Asia.

In 2000 Carter took on a commission from Howard Park Winery in the Margaret River region and created a seven-metre painting/sculpture using steel, timber and paint for owners Geoff and Amy Burch. In August 2002, on short notice, Carter was invited to head the Design team for the entire Closing Ceremony for the Manchester Commonwealth Games working with Artistic Director Nigel Jamison. The original team had all been stood down after two years work and Carter, collaborating with Jamison, had just three weeks to present a new Ceremony and three months to have it all constructed and rehearsed. As a result of that collaboration Carter was asked to design the Opening Ceremony for the Melbourne 2006 Games. In the Nederland's the Amsterdam Festival commissioned Carter to create a multi media work which included video, photography, lighting and design for their 2005 season. Carter also had work in that year at The Heerlen Festival in Holland.

Carter has held several Board positions with educational and arts organizations and has been a guest lecturer at WAAPA, NIDA and Curtin University.

He now resides in the Great Southern Region of Western Australia near William Bay on a 5 acre property with his wife and 2 children and continues to develop his art, design, writing and music.

This is a brief overview. A more detailed outline can be provided on request. Contact: andyartcarter@gmail.com