

# BIKE ART

## Art-historical references

The bicycle has featured in artworks since its invention in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Famously with Picasso's *Bulls Head* and Duchamp's *Bicycle Wheel* but also in literature with Alfred Jarry's *Ubu*.

## Practical needs of artists

Most of the adult artists that I remained in contact with from student days continue to ride bicycles or, have returned to it as a mode of transport.

## Creative outlets of artists

Artists make bicycles, eg Varna <http://www.varnahandcycles.com/>

## Environmental concerns of artists

Many artists respond to the call for sustainability, climate, environment, personal health and fitness.

## Local focus

Having the The Cooks River as part of the subject of a competition would identify the Cooks River as a destination for cyclists and artists.

Riverlife have a Cycling Tour from Tempe to Endeavour Bridge as well as a Walking Sketch Tour around Tempe.

The Marrickville Open Studio Trails documentation claims the Marrickville local government area as having one of the highest resident populations of artists in Sydney. The Australian Council for the Arts has studied the income of artists, most of whom would not be earning "minimum wage" and would benefit further close association with active recreational and active transport outlets.

Below are a selection of projects where the arts and cycling have been successfully incorporated. Or where specific artists have produced works specific to the locality which could be used to showcase the benefits of cycling.

## SUSTRANS Art & The Travelling Landscape



Sustrans has been developing new ways of working with artists which further

explore the resources and opportunities which the Network offers. 'Art & the Travelling Landscape' is a programme of projects being developed by Sustrans across the UK in partnership with local authorities and others which all focus on the opportunities for artists to work along extensive sections of the Network to create sequences of artworks as permanent installations.

Projects are shaped by local variations and circumstances. In every case artwork is used to create landmarks, celebrate local characteristics, engage with local communities and make for enjoyable and memorable journeys.

[Collections](#)  
[Searchable online Artworks Database](#)

<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/default.asp?sID=1090923270688&pID=>

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"Cooks River, High Noon" 2002  
Ken Searle / oil on hardboard

"KEN SEARLE grew up around the Cooks River, in the south-west suburbs of Sydney, where he still lives. He is best known for his large works in oil on canvas, depicting the suburban and industrial areas of a number of Australian cities. These include 'Newtown' (1978), 'Bowden/Brompton' (1981), 'North Geelong' (1995), 'Ballarat' (1998) and 'Newtown Revisited' (1999).

A self-taught artist, in the mid 1970s Ken Searle began regularly exhibiting works in oil on canvas at Watters Gallery in Sydney, where he has held thirteen solo exhibitions. He has also held exhibitions at a number of commercial galleries in Melbourne, and at various regional galleries. His paintings are held in the collections of the Australian National Gallery, the Art Gallery of South Australia, the National Gallery of Victoria and the Art Gallery of New South Wales as well as regional galleries and private collections.

In regard to his aims, Ken Searle has said that he sees his city paintings 'as maps, and also as portraits. My aim is to portray place, and the people who are part of that place'. The members of an urban community make their own interpretation of their place through time (past and present) by the overlapping ways in which they organise and utilise public and private spaces. In this way, a city is a vast living communal artwork. Searle sees his task as selecting representative images of this artwork and reassembling them within a frame.

Ken Searle's method is to 'walk into a painting, letting the area itself shape the form and content of the portrayal'. As he sketches and paints on site, he picks up the area's interpretation of itself. This is reflected in the compositions done back in the studio. "

<http://www.wattersgallery.com/artists/searle.htm>

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"October 26, 2000

Contact: Terry Maurer, WSU News Bureau, 509/372-7319, [tmaurer@tricity.wsu.edu](mailto:tmaurer@tricity.wsu.edu)

## **Bicycle Art Installation Underway at WSU Tri-Cities**

TRI-CITIES, Wash. -- A unique series of tall weathervanes will soon grace the riverbank of the Washington State University campus in Richland.

"Skyriders," an installation by artists Sue and Peter Richards, will feature a trio of 20-foot-high masts sporting full-size, colorful and specially-fabricated bicycles that swing in the wind. The installation -- an Art in Public Places project -- is located adjacent to the bike path that winds along the Columbia River's south bank on campus.

The project culminates several years planning by the university, the City of Richland and the Washington State Arts Commission..."

<http://www.wsu.edu/NIS/releases3/tkm107.htm>

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### **"Bicycle "Art Racks" Installed at Soulard Market**

For Washington University student James Lewis, it was a homework assignment that became a reality.

In 2003, associate professors Bill Wischmeyer, Jana Perea and Gay Lorberbaum challenged second-year architecture students to develop a bicycle art rack as part of a design assignment. A bicycle "art rack" is a functional piece of public art. It is a creatively designed bike-parking stand, which introduces art into the streetscape. Each design was required to be site-specific and related to its location, through either historical or functional context. The assignment also included building a quarter-size model..."

With its street pattern, diverse neighborhoods and architecture, St. Louis has an incredible potential to promote community bicycling," said Ted Curtis, Trailnet Executive Director "Chicago and other cities comparable to St. Louis have made large investments in the infrastructure that makes bicycling easier, such as street lanes and bike racks. A large part of Trailnet's mission is to increase public awareness and investments in our region to make it a bicycle-friendly community. The Soulard Market is a great location to promote this vision. We want to thank the funders, the community and merchants' organizations who have helped us launch this program."

For more information on the bicycle art racks program contact Peter Clarkson by email at [peterclarkson@trailnet.org](mailto:peterclarkson@trailnet.org) or call 314/436-1324 #118."

<http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/soulardmarket/>

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### **Call for Entries -- Salt Lake City Bicycle Art for a Better World**



The Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Committee announces a call for artists to participate in the 2003 Cycle Art Exhibition and Auction, a fundraiser to benefit the Salt Lake City Bicycle Collective.

This annual event, which will take place in April and May, features artwork made from bicycle parts. PC user can download a flier by right clicking on [this link](#) and

"Save Target as" or "Save link as".

<http://www.artistsofusah.org/newsletter/03feb/page6.html>



Because BICAS is a non-profit organization, we rely on donations from the public. We are always very grateful to receive financial contributions as well as donations of bicycles and bicycle parts in any condition. All donations are tax-deductible.

... Our phone number is 520.628.7950 and our snail-mail address is:

BICAS  
P.O. Box 1811  
Tucson, AZ 85702 U.S.A.

Thanx for visiting our site, and we hope to see you soon!  
Love, peace, and bicycle grease!! Recycle...and ride a bicycle!

<http://www.consensus.net/bicas.html>



[Home](#) » [Essays](#) » [Art](#) » Atomic Bicycle

*Diagnosis by Supervert of contemporary art at the end of the millenium, particularly in terms of power and shock. Originally published in Francesco Bonami, ed., [Echoes: Art at the End of the Millenium](#) (Monacelli Press, 1996).*

"Saturate each atom," writes Virginia Woolf in her diaries.<sup>1</sup> In the post-War age, we know what this means: when the nucleus of an atom of uranium is bombarded with neutrons, it results in the fission of the atom and a tremendous conversion of mass into destructive energy. But it's not a matter of whether Woolf lived to see the A-bomb dropped in 1945 or understood anything of the long history of atomic physics stretching from Democritus and Lucretius to the present day. The artist already works at a molecular level: every text is made of a million microscopic decisions of grammar and style, every painting is made of countless independent commitments to a certain hue, density, or direction in the minutest brushstrokes. Every work of art is already caught up in fission and fusion, and what does the saturation of *each* atom among congeries of them signify if not a desire to set off chain reactions in language, to trigger a conversion of painting or photography into energy and thereby irradiate the world with art. Perhaps artists were the first physicists: Lucretius formulated his theory of the declination of atoms in hexameter.

"It originates with the atoms," wrote Lucretius...

<http://supervert.com/>

## **The Wide Weird World of Cycling** **some offbeat and entertaining spots to visit**

Even the less fanatic cyclist gets curious sometimes. Step into the culture of cycling- take a look at these fun, strange, and informative sites.

### **Art**

Marcel Duchamp stunned the modern art world with his revolutionary Surrealist sculpture of a bicycle wheel. And whether a 1960s monk forged the supposed Leonardo da Vinci bicycle sketch or not, bicycling and the arts have forever been linked.

Bicycle Paintings & Custom Bicycle Portraits

<http://www.bicyclepaintings.com>

View painter and printmaker Taliah Lempert's enigmatic portraits of your favorite vehicle; link to other bicycling-friendly sites; and even send a free bicycling postcard to a friend.

Bicycle Art by Leni Fried Designs

<http://www.titaniumarts.com/content/bikeart.html>

Established printmaker Leni Fried has an unusual side project- painting bike frames. "Your bike should reflect your personality," she advises.

Tempe Cultural Services - Art in Transit Program

<http://www.tempe.gov/arts/artintransit.asp>

The City of Tempe, Arizona commissions artists to create public art in the form of bicycle racks, bus shelters and more. See the imaginative results here.

BikeART

<http://www.bicyclingart.com/>

Unique Cycling Sculptures by Russ Erganbright.

MiniatureBicycles2000

<http://miniaturebicycles2000.com>

Sculptor David Johnstone makes tiny replicas of cruisers, road bikes, mountain bikes, tricycles, and even old-fashioned high wheels. And if you fancy a bicycle dangling from your ears or around your neck, check out his cycle jewelry, too.

Sellwood Cycle Repair's Vintage Bicycle Poster Gallery

<http://www.sellwoodcycle.com/gallery1.html>

A gallery of 19th century bicycle posters. (Sorry, these aren't for sale- but you can look for free.)

Special Interest Cycling

Yahoo Recreation > Sports > Cycling

<http://dir.yahoo.com/Recreation/Sports/Cycling/>

Oh yeah, the sport of cycling. Need a head's up? Here's a great place to start. You'll find links here related to all aspects of touring, racing, dirt biking, mountain biking, and plain ole everyday get-from-Point-A-to-Point-B cycling.

Mike's Mega Bicycling Links

<http://www.mikebentley.com/bike/>

More links than you can shake a stick at, from touring and other fun stuff to safety and riding tips.

A Bicycling Magazine for Everyday Cyclists

<http://www.bicyclinglife.com/>

From tips on street smarts to ways to integrate cycling into your daily life & more.

Girl Groove

<http://www.girlgroove.com/>

"Where the rubber meets the road... and the dirt." An online cycling magazine for girls and women

girlbike.com

<http://www.girlbike.com>

Another good site for female cyclists with touring tips, reviews of gear and women's cycling books, as well as links to specialized bargain shopping sources and other helpful spots on the web.

<http://www.bicyclinginfo.org/>

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"...Two weeks ago, the opening party for the Bicycle Art Show, it seems, drew a crowd of 400 people, curious and initiated alike. The show's curator, Eric Anderson, said the party brought together disparate elements of the bicycling world who don't usually meet out in the asphalt wilds of the city—bike messengers, weekend-warrior recreationalists and bike commuters, of whom there are more, apparently, than you might think. Warm weather can coax as many as 2,000 bikers-to-work into the streets, according to Anderson.

"People don't realize how many people are commuting by bike," he said.

But the Art Show was just the final round of [Bike Winter](#), which began, not in winter, but in October: Sponsored by Critical Mass, Chicagoland's grassroots bike advocacy movement, Bike Winter is a series of events: bike rides, bike races, protests on bike, bike workshops, bike fashion shows, and lessons in mid-cycle flirting along shady biking paths. This year's most memorable event, according to a few party-goers, was the December "[Santa Rampage](#)." On the Saturday before Christmas, a score of Critical Mass riders dressed in red and white felt, descended on the Magnificent Mile, exhorting shoppers to save their money and celebrate the holiday without a pile of overly pricey presents.

"We got pretty good response," said bike rider Michael Burton. "I guess people can't get mad with someone in a Santa suit."

Pointing to pictures of the rampage scrolling continuously through a slide projector [installation by Daniel Kopald] as part of the art show, Burton chirped that the group even convinced one or two people to stop shopping and go home. That's the same effect he and others are hoping the art show will have.

"It's not really a show that tries to sell things," Burton said. "It's an activist show. Basically we try to break even if we can."

And even though the manager of the building, at 202 S. State Street, provides the gallery space for free, the staffers all volunteer their time, and the artists donate their work, breaking even is still difficult. The show's budget, Anderson said, runs on the shortest of shoestrings.

"But it's important," he said. "In our culture, we're surrounded by images of the automobile as the dominant mode of transportation. I mean, you can't watch 10 minutes of TV without a car commercial. So it's nice for people to be in an environment that shows another form of transportation, and that makes it appealing..."

Hate Your Car?  
Area bicycle boosters harbor deeper automotive misgivings.  
by *Lydia Lyle Gibson*  
Staff Writer  
*Chicago Journal*  
March 1, 2001

<http://www.bikewinter.org/>

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# Tempe Transit



## **College Avenue Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge**

As part of the US 60 freeway renovation project, the city of Tempe and Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) replaced the old College Avenue Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge with a new, more attractive and functional bridge. This new bridge is more accessible for users, including people with wheelchairs, bicycles and strollers. In addition, the new bridge included an artist-designed feature to enhance the experience of adjacent property owners, users of the bridge and motorists on US 60. The bridge connects Evans School and Palmer Park on the south side of US 60 with neighborhoods on the north side of US 60.

The art element, called *Sirens of the Superstition*, is located on the sound walls and ramps facing the neighborhoods at the College Avenue and the US 60 Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge. The art element consists of a flock of birds which appear to descend the ramps on both sides of the bridge and fly across the patterned walls. Approximately 180 birds, the size of pigeons, were made of latex reinforced concrete and attached to the sound walls. Lighting, landscaping, trash cans and water fountains were also incorporated into the project.

The College Avenue Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge was installed on April 20, 2002. Below are some photos of the new and improved bridge. The public art portion of this project was installed in December 2003. View pictures of the bridge and art: [Photo 1](#), [Photo 2](#), [Photo 3](#), [Photo 4](#), [Photo 5](#), [Photo 6](#)...

<http://www.tempe.gov/bikeprogram/>

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Lin Onus (b. 1948 d. 1996)



"Lin's entry in the 1995 Archibald Prize for Portraiture. Gary Foley with bicycle. On the far right, Sydney radio announcer John Laws picks nits from the hair of Victorian Premier Jeffrey Gibb Kennett."

Lin Onus  
(1948 -1996)  
Motifs of a Continent  
The Guardian (London) Oct 31,  
Sydney Morning Herald Oct 25,  
Shepparton News, Nov 1.  
by DAVID LANGSAM

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/dingonet/linonus.htm>

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## Gardenlab

Inspired by the garden as metaphor & laboratory, Gardenlab initiates ecology based art & design projects including site-specific installations and interventions, exhibits and events, ecological and environmental college curricula, conferences and lectures. Gardenlab seeks to fundamentally shift the current self-reflexive culture of art and design, where formal novelty, hermetic discourse and the latest software dominate. The Gardenlab provides a balance to these forces by provoking thought on the inter-dependant relationships that define our communities and environment.

### archive

#### grants & support

the lef foundation  
the wallis foundation  
the ford motor company fund  
the city of pasadena cultural affairs division  
the british council  
durfee grants

art center faculty enrichment grant

#### gardenlab visitors, lecturers & guest critics

- > peter aeschbacher / architect / community garden activist / los angeles
- > susan cloke / chair of the regional water quality control board / los angeles
- > kitty connolly / director of education / the huntington gardens / san marino
- > laura cooper / artist / los angeles
- > annmarie eldering / scientist / jet propulsion laboratory / pasadena
- > nancy goslee power / landscape designer / los angeles

- > david kremers / artist in residence / california institute of technology / pasadena
- > jean lem di sabatino / landscape designer / los angeles
- > william mcdonough / architect / william mcdonough & partners / charlottesville, va / [link](#)
- > lize mogel / artist / los angeles
- > nils norman / artist / london
- > francois perrin / architect / los angeles
- > yvonne savio / director, common ground / master gardening program / los angeles
- > edwin schlossberg / environmental designer / esi design / new york, new york / [link](#)
- > melanie winter / the river project / los angeles / [link](#)

#### **links**

[earth pledge](#)  
[center for land use interpretation](#)  
[city of los angeles community gardens](#)  
[city of los angeles department of recreation and parks](#)  
[community conservancy](#)  
[cooperative extension](#)  
[descanso gardens](#)  
[ecovention](#)  
[greenmuseum.org](#)  
[high desert test sites](#)  
[the huntington botanical gardens](#)  
[lef foundation](#)  
[meg webster](#)  
[northeast trees](#)  
[path to freedom](#)  
[possible worlds conference - triennale di milano](#)  
[public green](#)  
[river project](#)  
[santa monica mountains conservancy](#)  
[tree people](#)  
[trust for public land](#)  
[architecture for humanity](#)  
[cityworks los angeles](#)

gardenlab / manifesto

<http://www.fritzhaeg.com/garden/manifesto.html>

gardenlab / archive

<http://www.fritzhaeg.com/garden/archive.html>

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