Since the late 1990s street artists have filled Melbourne’s laneways giving new life to otherwise hidden areas of the central city. Street art gives voice, and pays homage, to the creativity of the city in stencils, murals, paste-ups and mixed media. Open to the elements, many of the works are temporary, which means this self-guided walk can be taken again and again with different results every time. Keep your eyes open, as you’re sure to make your own special discoveries along the way.

A great launching pad for your walk is **AC/DC Lane** 9, named in 2004 in tribute to the iconic rock band. The rock’n’roll spirit is strong here: bursting through the laneway brickwork is a concrete figure of AC/DC’s original singer, Bon Scott. Follow the horseshoe around from AC/DC Lane into **Duckboard Place** 11 and you’ll find majestic murals mixing with world-class dining, including Pastuso, Tonka, Garden State and Lee Ho Fook.

From Duckboard Place, turn left down Flinders Lane and continue through George Parade, passing il Solito Posto, a rustic Italian cafe and bar. Turn left onto Collins Street and take in a spot of window shopping as you round the corner onto Russell Street. **Beany Lane** 92 appears on your left. You’re likely to linger here as the street art is impressive and there are no crowds to jostle you. Cross over Russell Street and indulge in a croissant at Lune or freshly made pasta from Lello next door.

Continue down Flinders Lane towards Swanston Street, where you’ll hit a street art haven in the form of **Hosier and Rutledge lanes** 93. Every inch of these laneways is covered with art, and it’s likely you’ll catch an artist creating a work-in-progress. Grab a seat and watch it all unfold at Hosier Lane staples MeVida and Bar Tini, or help support the homeless and disadvantaged with a coffee from Good 2 Go.

Keep walking west down Flinders Lane, and find **Centre Place** 94 just over Swanston Street on your right. This is a bustling hub of cafes crammed tightly together – Hell’s Kitchen, Cafe Vicolo, Shandong Mama Mini and Euro Lane, just to name a few – peppered with eye-catching street art specimens. It’s the perfect place to stop and recharge your batteries with food and drink.

Continue your walk into the central city passing through **St Collins Lane** shopping centre, towards **Little Collins Street**, where you’ll find **Union Lane** 95. Running alongside the David Jones department store, this narrow lane boasts an impressive volume of street art tucked behind Bourke Street Mall.

Union Lane is also close to one of Melbourne’s street art gems, **Presgrave Place** 96. Cross **Little Collins Street** and walk down Howey Place until you see a tiny lane on your left that leads to nowhere. Presgrave Place is special because it serves up standout examples of small artworks that come together to create a magical whole. Mixed-media works are grouped unevenly in picture frames along one wall. It’s worth digesting it all with a coffee from 30ml, or head around the corner to Bar Americano.

Make your way out onto Swanston Street and weave through the throng and many sidewalk vendors until you get to Chinatown on **Little Bourke Street**. That’s where you’ll find **Tattersalls Lane** 97. The drinking and dining options will impress you including Ferdyduke, Section 8 and an abundance of cheap eateries. The spectacular street art canvas includes a mural of a woman – be sure to look up or you might miss it.

Skip across to **Drewry and Snider lanes** 98, off Lonsdale Street, close to Melbourne Central. Drewry Lane offers an unexpected pleasure that honours its long-time resident, Legacy House. A motley mosaic of handmade tiles created by the families, friends and widows of war veterans – creates an evolving collective artwork known as The Melbourne Legacy Centenary of ANZAC Street Art Mural. It’s a project that is guaranteed to pluck at the heartstrings.

Cross back over Lonsdale Street and take a quick look down **Caledonian Lane** 99. It’s wider than most lanes in Melbourne, backing onto the loading dock of Emporium Melbourne, and its urban artworks may be sporadic but it still maintains street cred with locals for being the birthplace of the St Jerome’s Laneway Festival.

Wander further west on **Little Bourke Street** towards Queen Street to **Rankins Lane** 100, where street art clusters on the corner. Expect to see queues of people waiting for coffee from Manchester Press.

Keep walking down **Little Bourke** and you’ll hit **Racing Club Lane** 101, which showcases a stunning work from the very talented artist Jade Knowles and equally stunning nitrogen gelato from artisan makers, Dex2Rose.
Go west down Little Bourke Street until you arrive at Hardware Lane on your right, a popular pedestrian strip lined with a mix of shops and eateries such as Miznon, Campari House and Charlie’s Bar. Cross over Lonsdale Street and continue until you reach Finlay Alley, the next lane on your left. Finlay Alley could be easily missed when entering from Little Lonsdale Street, as there is a partial overhead covering. Once you walk inside, what looks like a dark driveway leading to loading docks and rubbish bins is actually a growing nest of street art.

Leave Finlay Alley on Queen Street and turn right to find one of the newer street art showcases in the central city. Guildford Lane is a bluestone-paved thoroughfare in Melbourne’s Green Your Laneways project, this site features large scale works by artists Ghostpatrol and Al Stark.

Makatron’s ‘greening’ of an old laneway. Of note is artist Mike Makatron’s stunning Jungle Funk mural, which creeps around the corner of Bourke Street.

Upper West Side
On the corner of Spencer and Little Bourke streets, Melbourne’s first official street art precinct is becoming something very special – all seven storeys and 30 metres of it.

The Blender Studios
The Blender Studios has transformed a weathered warehouse in West Melbourne into an incubator of street art talent that is open to the public.

Croft Alley
Croft Alley, running off Little Bourke Street, is splashed with street art in all the colours of the rainbow, providing maximum wow factor in every direction.

OTHER SITES OF SIGNIFICANCE
Coromandel Place
One of the pilot spaces for City of Melbourne’s Green Your Laneways project, this site features large scale works by artists Ghostpatrol and Al Stark.

Meyers Place
Meyers Place wears its Green Your Laneways heart on its sleeve with Mike Makatron’s stunning Jungle Funk mural, which creeps around the corner of Bourke Street.

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OTHER OUTDOOR ART EXPERIENCES
Curious explorers are rewarded in Melbourne with public art discoveries around every corner.

Frog, John Olsen, 2013
A super-sized amphibian work by one of Australia’s most significant artists.

Location Children’s Pond, Queen Victoria Gardens
Cow Up a Tree, John Kelly, 2000
A surreal sculpture that lives up to its title: it’s a cow up a tree.

Architectural Fragment, Petrus Spronk, 1992
A bluestone representation of a buried fragment of the State Library of Victoria.

Location corner of Swanston and La Trobe streets
Vault, Ron Robertson-Swann, 1980
One of Australia’s most controversial artworks famously dubbed ‘The Yellow Peril’.

Location Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) forecourt, Grant Street, Southbank

The City of Melbourne acknowledges the contribution street art makes to the vibrancy of the city and its laneways and is continuing to work with various city communities, across a range of areas, to encourage a thriving legal street art ecology for the benefit of all.

Cover: Deb, Hosier Lane
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