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2016 Melbourne Art Trams People's Choice winner announced as Mimi Leung



The public has spoken and Shepparton based artist **Mimi Leung** has taken home the 2016 Melbourne Art Trams People's Choice Award and the accompanying \$5,000 cash prize.

A revival of the *Transporting Art* project that ran between 1987 and 1993, Melbourne Art Trams is made possible through a creative partnership between Melbourne Festival, Creative Victoria and Public Transport Victoria in collaboration with Yarra Trams.

The eight trams debuted on the streets of Melbourne in early October as part of this year's Melbourne Festival visual arts program and votes for the People's Choice Award closed on Sunday.

A Hong Kong born artist, painter, illustrator and printmaker residing in Shepparton, Mimi's movement driven works have appeared in numerous international exhibitions and editorial including The New York Times, Dazed and Confused, The Guardian, Vice, Mute Magazine and more. Through her design she aimed to celebrate the tram as an unusual, distinctive and authentic place where audience and artists are intertwined creating an immersive experience through a show of colour and fluidity.

Mimi Leung said: "Thanks to everyone who voted for my tram. It's been amazing to have my work included in this year's Melbourne Art Trams alongside such beautiful works by the other artists. I've really enjoyed stalking the trams on Instagram and receiving messages from strangers with photos of my tram saying how it brightened up their day. Thanks to Multicultural Arts Victoria for inviting me to submit an EOI and to all project partners for producing this valuable and vibrant art initiative."

Melbourne Festival Artistic Director, Jonathan Holloway said: "Mimi's tram celebrates the creativity that fuels Melbourne and the energy our diverse cultural landscape creates, and I'm so glad the public have selected it for this award. This is a project could only happen in Victoria: matching our iconic trams with the creations of artists who call this place home. The artist's work traverses hundreds of kilometres each day in this most fitting celebration of our creative state."

Mimi's tram – a C Class running on routes 48 and 109 – can be found by using tramTRACKER, pressing myTRAM function and entering tram ID 3008.

Alongside **Mimi Leung** the other 2016 artists are **Reko Rennie, Joceline Lee, Megan Evans and Eve Glenn, Jon Cattapan, Eddie Botha, Damiano Bertoli** and emerging artist **Eliza Dyball**. The eight Melbourne Art Trams will remain on the network until April 2017.

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