



AUSTRALIAN
**GARDEN
HISTORY**
SOCIETY

THE LOST SCULPTURES OF FITZROY GARDENS

Image: Fitzroy Gardens – Western Avenue – Melbourne. Circa 1905. Postcard. H96.200/645. Melbourne: State Library of Victoria (image in public domain)

Lecture & Walk By: Dr Monique Webber
Wednesday Evening Lecture: 19 February, 6pm
Sunday Walking Tour: 23 February, 2pm

The Lost Sculptures of Fitzroy Gardens

Gardens were central to Melbourne's identity from its colonial beginnings. While Paris and London created urban gardens as a solution to industrialisation, Melbourne laid a 'green necklace' around its nascent urban grid. The Fitzroy Gardens were one of the earliest, and for many years, one of the city's most culturally ambitious sites. As Melbourne imposed a European identity upon its growing population, the Fitzroy Gardens soon hosted more than sixty classical statues cast from leading international collections. With time, however, tastes changed and these once-celebrated statues fell into disrepair. The debate surrounding their fate divided a rapidly changing city and forged attitudes towards gardens, art, and urban identity that resonate today. Drawing on research conducted in Melbourne, Paris, and Rome as the 2017-2018 State Library of Victoria La Trobe Society Fellow, Dr. Monique Webber will reveal the dramatic story of Melbourne's lost sculptures and their role in the contemporary city.



Image: Valentine Publishing Co. Statue of Diana, Fitzroy Gardens, Melbourne. Circa 1908. Postcard. H96.200/624. Melbourne: State Library of Victoria (image in public domain)

Dr. Monique Webber is a Teaching Associate and Honorary Fellow at The University of Melbourne; and a Teaching Associate at Monash University Art Design and Architecture. Her research centres on the impact of urban environments upon cultural expression. Embracing international urban cultures from the early modern to the contemporary eras, this focus encompasses Webber's broader interests in fine art; design; and society. To arrive at a nuanced inquiry into creative practice, this research is based in Art History, but incorporates Architectural History and Theory as well as History and Classics methodologies.

Webber was the 2017-2018 State Library of Victoria La Trobe Society Fellow. Her project, "La Trobe's Garden City and the Lost Sculptures of Fitzroy Gardens", focused on debates surrounding urban sculpture in Modern Melbourne. Webber's teaching practice embraces technology, object-based learning, and inquisitive models to create engaging virtual and physical learning environments. Webber is also active in academic community engagement; and contemporary art and architectural criticism.

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Dr Monique Webber

**Wednesday Evening
Lecture: 6.30pm**

Refreshments: 6pm

Venue:

Mueller Hall, National Herbarium
Birdwood Ave, South Yarra

Sunday Walking Tour: 2pm

Meet at 1.30pm in front of
the conservatory by the Diana
sculpture.

Venue:

Fitzroy Gardens, East Melbourne

Payment includes both the
lecture and walk. There is no
single session fee if attending
only the walk or the lecture.

Tickets:

AGHS Members	\$20
Non-Members	\$25
Students	\$10

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