

---

## REG PARKER SCULPTURE (UNTITLED 8/73)



Reg Parker Sculpture, 266 Gower Street, Preston



Reg Parker Sculpture, 266 Gower Street, Preston



Reg Parker Sculpture, 266 Gower Street, Preston

---

### Location

266 GOWER STREET, PRESTON, DAREBIN CITY

### Municipality

DAREBIN CITY

### Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO214

### Heritage Listing

Darebin City

---

### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

#### *What is significant?*

The sculpture Untitled 8/73 at 266 Gower Street, Preston, by Reg Parker was commissioned by the City of Preston at a time when funding was available from the Australia Council for the Arts. It was commissioned in 1973, the same year a replacement Preston Library opened. The abstract mild steel sculpture was designed to have a close relationship with the Library building, in particular the south wall. Located in the forecourt of the library on the south side of the building, the sculpture is in good condition and maintains its close relationship with

the library building. The sculpture, its forecourt setting and the relationship between the sculpture and the Library building is significant.

The plaque dating from c.1994 with inscription and City of Darebin logo is not significant.

*How is it significant?*

The sculpture Untitled 8/73 at 266 Gower Street, Preston is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Darebin City.

*Why is it significant?*

Historically, the Reg Parker sculpture Untitled 8/73 is significant to the City of Darebin as a relatively early piece of abstract public art, that is important for the evidence it provides of federally-funded visual arts policy under the Whitlam government, the objective of which was to place contemporary Australian art in communities which were overlooked in the past, and from which the City of Preston benefited (AHC criteria A.4). Untitled 8/73 is important for its association with its creator, artist and sculptor Reg Parker, one of the early practitioners in the classic formalist style and an artist of note working in Melbourne and Victoria (AHC criterion H.1).

Aesthetically, the Reg Parker sculpture Untitled 8/73 provides important representative evidence of classic formalist art practiced in 1970s Melbourne, commissioned for public spaces. Untitled 8/73 is unusual in Darebin as an early example of public art. Aesthetically, it is also unusual in Darebin, as an example of public art in an abstract style. (AHC criterion F.1).

Heritage Study/Consultant Darebin - Darebin Heritage Study, Context P/L, 2011;

Construction dates 1973,

Hermes Number 27077

Property Number

---

## Physical Description 1

The Reg Parker sculpture, Untitled 8/73, is a classical formalist sculpture of steel, situated in the forecourt of the Preston Library. It comprises a series of simple, welded together, three-dimensional rectangular forms. A white masonry panel in the library's facade provides a minimalist foil against which the sculpture is viewed.

A plaque with the following inscription is set into one of the forecourt pavers:

*Reg PARKER*

*Untitled 8/73 1973*

*steel*

*This sculpture is classified by the National Trust of Australia (Vic)*

[City of Darebin logo]

The City of Darebin logo suggests the plaque was installed sometime after 1994, the year the City of Darebin was formed, amalgamating the Cities of Northcote and Preston.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*