
Bart Sanciola - Dante's Divine Comedy



B469 Dante's Divine Comedy

Location

Latrobe University, Kingsbury Drive,, BUNDOORA VIC 3083 - Property No B6469

Municipality

DAREBIN CITY

Level of significance

Local

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 26, 2006

Dante's Divine comedy is of local significance on the basis of literary associations, social grounds and aesthetic merit. For an Australian setting it is notable for being a monument to a major European literary and cultural work, which inspired many artistic imaginations for centuries. More importantly, the Divine Comedy was written not in literary Latin, but in a language based on Tuscan and similar neighbouring dialects, which became the basis for the literary Italian language. (Bulletin) The sculpture draws attention to Dante's life, education, ideas, imagination and sources for his work, as well as to contemporary medieval views of religion and the after life. Despite the complexity and length of the original text, the sculpture provides an insight to its content, which encourages further investigation.

The project gained widespread moral and financial support of the Melbourne Italian community. The gesture reflects their generosity, contribution and commitment to Australia. It demonstrates an affection for their culture and language.

An important parallel to twentieth century emigration is that Dante, an exile from Florence remained a migrant for

the rest of his life, but retained an affection for his homeland. It is an appropriate monument from one of the country's largest migrant communities with a long history of settlement here.

The simple bold outline is of dimensions that attract the spectator's attention. The faces of the sculpture are enriched by figures perceptively and realistically portraying the drama of Inferno, Purgatorio, and Paradiso, with appropriate styles, e.g. agony, torment, despair, fear in Inferno contrasts with the more peaceful religious character of Paradiso. The indentations of the pyramid has modified an otherwise stark geometric form, creating greater real depth for the reliefs, thereby enhancing their realism.

Classified: 17/11/1993

Hermes Number 66789

Property Number

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/>