Martin Boyce draws on iconic Modernist design, reflecting on its legacies and residues, exploring the resilience and adaptability of its principles and forms. He is inspired by public spaces and the structures that mediate our experience of the city. Boyce creates atmospheric installations exploring the potential for poetic engagement with the urban landscape.

This forum will consider how artists approach art making in the public realm – ranging from site responsiveness to uncanny interventions. What new narrative possibilities are artists envisaging for public spaces? Have ruins become the new monuments? Why does the modern continue to impress on our imagining of the future?

This panel discussion will be informal encouraging student participation.

Martin Boyce, Artist
Max Delany, Director,
Monash University Museum of Art
Callum Morton, Artist
Associate Professor SueAnne Ware,
Landscape Architecture program &
Executive Leader,
Urban Liveability program,
Design Research Institute,
RMIT University

Chaired by Professor Elizabeth Grierson,
Head, School of Art, RMIT University and
Executive Leader, Intervention through Art program,
Design Research Institute

Coordinated by Dr Linda Williams,
Senior Lecturer, Art History and Critical Theory,
School of Art, RMIT University
Martin Boyce explores the heritage of modernist design and architecture, imagining new possibilities for the forms and surfaces of the urban landscape. He has exhibited extensively internationally including in the Munster Sculpture Project 2007 where he designed a ground structure on the site of the former zoological garden. Other recent exhibitions include New York’s New Museum’s inaugural exhibition Unmonumental: the object in the 21st century, 2007 and a solo exhibition at the Ikon Gallery in Birmingham, UK, 2008. Recently he exhibited a large scale fluorescent light ‘web’ sculpture in an exhibition with Ugo Rondinone at the Sculpture Centre in New York. He has been selected to represent Scotland at the 2009 Venice Biennale.

Max Delany is the Director of the Monash University Museum of Art and was previously the Director of Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces and Curator of the Heide Museum of Modern Art. He is an editorial advisor to Art & Australia, and a board member of Satellite Projects Inc., a new not-for profit organisation dedicated to commissioning new work in the public sphere. He worked with Martin Boyce in 1998, in his role as curator of the exhibition Strolling: the art of arcades, boulevards, barricades, publicity at Heide Museum.

Callum Morton is known for his re-modellings of public and private spaces and structures, reflecting on the fate of architecture over time through the impact of globalisation and realities of human habitation. For the 2007 Venice Biennale he remade his childhood home, designed by his architect father, as a bombed out modernist ruin. In the 2008 SCAPE biennial of art in public space in Christchurch, NZ, he revealed a suburban shop-front subjected to the extraordinary event of a meteorite hit. He has exhibited extensively internationally including in the Busan Biennale 2006, 11th Indian Triennale 2005 and the 2nd Istanbul Pedestrians Exhibition, 2005. In 2009 he will be making site-specific projects in Linz, Austria and Tilburg, the Netherlands.

Associate Professor SueAnne Ware is the Executive Leader of the Urban Liveability Program at the RMIT Design Research Institute. Her design research practice explores progressive and ephemeral memorials. She was co-organiser of the 2001 Memorials to the Stolen Generation Competition in conjunction with the Museum of Victoria. Her design work entitled, An Anti-Memorial to Heroin Overdose Victims was featured in the 2001 Melbourne Festival and was awarded a national design award from the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects. Her most recent memorial project the SIEV X Memorial, 2007 received a special commendation for new directions in socially responsible design from the AILA. Previous work includes, A Moment in Death: A Memorial to Victims of Gang Violence and she received a national merit award for research from the American Society of Landscape Architects. In August of 2005 she was a visiting professor at The University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Professor Elizabeth Grierson is the Head of the School of Art and Professor of Art and Philosophy at RMIT University Melbourne. She is an Executive member of the RMIT Design Research Institute leading the research program Intervention through Art, and leads the Art and Urbanism projects in the RMIT Global Cities Research Institute.