

As Anne Lane whose parents arrived in Australia from Germany in 1952, reminds us: *Australia at the time was the only country prepared to take on German migrants, but the war had left deep psychological scars, which in my mother's case, distance could not heal. My parents felt that they had no choice but to be quiet and acquiesce- they had no voice.*

Anne's parents experience in a way is not dissimilar to that of John Zika whose family was fleeing from Czechoslovakia. John's mother was seven months pregnant at the time, and because of that, no other country except Australia would take them. And when after weeks at sea, they finally touched Australian soil via the iconic Piers (Station Pier & Princes Pier), in Port Melbourne, it was on the day of John's seventh birthday. There was no welcoming party for the Zika family; John's father however, imagined Australia as a homeland, and impressed on him that this was indeed his birthday present.

Rosella Picciani's mother Ginetta *cried every day*. She consoled herself by praying to the icon of a young Madonna hanging above her bedhead. And, by tape-recording (reel to reel) letters for her mother back in Italy, which she'd send by hand with friends who were going back to her home town.

Maria & Raimund Horvath were among those who chose to return to their home in Austria, but were soon disappointed to discover that things had changed there as well. Not being able to settle in the new environment back home, they eventually returned to Australia.

The 2015-2016 *What Happened at the Pier #2* project is curated by Lella Cariddi, with the aim of giving voice to previously unrecorded social histories of mass migration by sea. The researching, exhibiting, documenting and sharing of these histories is intended to inform not only 21st century scholars and historians, but Australians from all cultures and all walks of life, and is only one part of the process to educate the community at large about our origins, and the circumstances that made us, call ourselves Australians.

Curator, Lella Cariddi is primarily interested in site-specific contemporary art projects that explore the complexities of identity and cultural diversity not only in relation to the internal displacement experienced by migrants, but importantly, that the process employed in such projects, will in future enable us to gain a sensitive cross-cultural understanding of indigenous histories and their own displacement within their homeland.

"The objects, artworks and social history profiles are significant not least because of the ongoing tension between: what is considered important and therefore is recorded in the annals of Australian History and what is considered trivial and gets left out; between cultural values of some "old Australians" and the values of new, as well as old established migrants, displaced people and the many refugee seekers whose sole aim is to work in peaceful coexistence, and to make a permanent home in Australia for themselves and for future generations; between Christianity and other faiths and beliefs."

-- Lella Cariddi, exhibition curator

Partnerships

At Multicultural Arts Victoria (MAV) we value this important relationship with the Emerald Hill Library & Heritage Centre and the City of Port Phillip that has enabled us to reflect on the memories and emotions of generations of people who are our history.

In partnership with MAV and the University of Melbourne's VCA | MCM, the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions (CHE) is looking to appoint a **post-doctoral research fellow** at the University of Melbourne's VCA | MCM to contribute to research projects in the **History of Emotions**, as they relate to the topic of music and the development of creative expressions that engender emotional community responses, specifically multicultural understanding and conciliation. **Applications due 15 January**, details at **multiculturalarts.com.au**.

Associated public programs:

During the life of this exhibition there will be two FREE programs where the public is invited to go on a guided tour & engage with Memory Keepers who will recall their journey through poetry reading and/or live storytelling.

The first; on Friday 22nd January 2016, features Memory Keeper **Cr Anita Horvath**.

Anita's parents *Mama Maria Horvath & Papa Raimund Horvath* were among those who chose to return to their home in Austria, but were soon disappointed to discover that things had changed there as well. Unable to settle in the new environment back home, they eventually returned to Australia.

The second; on Saturday 13th of February 2016, features Memory Keeper **Marietta Elliott-Kleerkoper**.

Marietta was born in Amsterdam on the last day of 1937, the elder of two girls. The Kleerkoper family survived the Holocaust and immigrated to Australia in 1949. Marietta taught foreign languages and English as a Second Language in schools and universities and worked as freelance editor. Her prize winning poetry has been published in Australia and the Netherlands; the latest titled: *A perfect distortion*, will be launched on the 6th of February 2016. In 2004 Marietta underwent surgery for breast cancer, it has recently metastasised to the spine.

Bookings are essential via the events calendar at heritage.portphillip.vic.gov.au

Call 9209 6416 or email art&heritage@portphillip.vic.gov.au for more information

The Memory Keepers in this exhibition are:

Sabi Buehler – representing her parents Gundel and Hans Buehler through Biography, collaged text, photographs, books, heritage artefacts, tools of trade & artwork; and self through childhood books, Teddy story, toy pram; origin Germany.

Lella Cariddi – representing self through text & Red Hat; origin Italy.

Anne Cocks – representing self through text, a self-referential quilt & a range of functional domestic objects such as a coffee grinder which at a time when Holland was being starved by Germany, Anne's mother found useful to grind grain with it so that she could put food in the mouths of her hungry family; origin Holland.

Marcello D'Amico – representing self & family members through text & embroidered cushion which him and his priest brother took part in stitching; origin Aeolian Islands (Italy).

Marietta Elliott-Kleerkoper – representing self with the poem: SS Volendam. Her grandmother Elisabeth Rudelsheim through embroidered cushions, and her parents Hanna and Sieg Kleerkoper through "the **Kleerkoper** family book", Hanna's memoir titled *Recollections of my century*, and Sieg's heritage artefacts and documents ; origin Holland.

Janna Hilbrink – representing her mother Emma Hilbrink, through text, photograph & her mother's ear-rings which her brother had sent to her from France; origin Holland.

Anita Horvath – representing her parents: *Mama Maria Horvath & Papa Raimund Horvath*, Through a montage of family photographs on the side of their suitcase ; origin Austria.

Deborah Klein – representing her aunt Sophie Maj through a montage of photographs and hand-written biographical text; origin Poland.

Anne Lane – representing her mother through collage comprising biographical text & family photographs; origin Germany.

Sam Marasco – representing his father Domenico Maarasco, through Domenico's original hand-drafted poetic text in Italian, family photographs, a pencil sketch by Domenico of the family house left behind in Italy, & Domenico's poetic text rendered in English; origin Italy .

Concetta Nikolovski – representing her uncle Amedeo Silverii (102) & her aunt Clorinda Silverii-Stoppa (95) through text, family photographs & a framed embroidery of the archangel Michael stitched by Amedeo in a concentration camp in India, where he was a prisoner of war under Australia; origin Italy.

Rossella Picciani – representing self through (now digitised) sound recording of her talking on the *reel to reel* tape recorder sending kisses and messages to her *nonna* Teresa in Italy. Both Rossella's silk prints, and framed artwork are imbued with iconic symbols that she has been transferring from fluid thoughts to solid state on paper from a very young age. The photographic collage represents family and friends left behind. Rossella's mother Mafalda (Ginetta) Ciccolallo Picciani is represented through monogrammed linen which the family grew from seed & an ornately framed picture of the young Madonna; origin Italy.

Helen Said – representing her father George Said through movie camera & a biography “Five Egyptian Pounds”; she is also representing her English grandmother through an embroidered table cloth; origin Egypt & England.

Despina Sarikizis – representing her grandfather George Sarikizis through text, family photographs & document; origin Greece.

John Zika – representing self, his mother Heda , his father Mila, and his brother Charles, through family photographs , heritage objects including opera glasses, text, and a recipe book ;
origin Czechoslovakia.

Below are just two of the exhibition installation images:



Digital transcript of tape recordings featuring Memory Keeper Rossella Picciani aged 4-5 tape-recording a *reel to reel* message for her *nonna* Teresa, in Italy, circa 1960.



Photograph by Rosella Picciani, Boys on Leave in Sicily, 1951.

Emerald Hill Library and Heritage Centre

195 Bank Street, South Melbourne

Opening Hours:

Monday: 10am-6pm

Tuesday: 2pm-8pm

Wednesday: 2pm-6pm

Thursday: 12noon-6pm

Friday: 10am-6pm

Saturday: 10am-2pm

Closed Sundays

For more information about the Emerald Hill Library & Heritage Centre visit
heritage.portphillip.vic.gov.au OR library.portphillip.vic.gov.au

