

18 Harriett St,
Adelaide
Sth Australia 5000.

Dear Phil,

We compiled the necessary information - I hope it answers your questions adequately. We welcome exposure to our work and wish you good luck in your activities in Sth Australia.

- ① How did the group arrive at mural painting? Was it the result of other efforts at making art forms which served ordinary people?

Individuals in the group have been interested in finding an art form more suited to the needs of the people for some years.

- After some investigation into the possibility of mural painting in Australia - a couple of us then
- to Mexico and the USA to study techniques and organizational principles.
- Mural painting was of particular interest as -
- serves to raise painting from the commodity
- Acts as encouragement to community involvement
- Because of its public nature
- And popular ownership
- Also offers an alternative to conservative media

- ② What sort of organization and distribution of labour is involved, both with the content and the execution of such work?

— There are basically two types of organizational groups in Victoria.

(a) Those that work under a single director with a planner and assistants.

(b) Or Those that equally distribute duties among group members.

Both types are essentially organized as follow.

- Meetings are held to establish content.
- How to get a wall
- What subject matter suits the locality of wall.
- Whether content should follow
 - ① local issues eg - local freeways.
 - ② General issues eg - Australian Independence
- Community meetings can be held to determine most important issues.
- Often content is suggested by interested organiza in the particular area.

Content decided

- All make drawings - have a return meeting to pick the best style and subject matter from each drawing.
- one person is then allotted to make a final coloured sketch. - Easier to change a drawing than a mural!
- The drawing is then mounted and covered in durable plastic which is then gridded (the plastic) to the scale of the wall.

- If scaffolding is necessary
either raise the money or seek donation from a friendly union etc.

- Insure workers - for scaffold work (paint of inter women cannot be insured in Victoria)
- Can also insure the wall against damage.
For a nominal fee one can organize a legally binding contract guaranteeing insurance against obscenity or obstruction for say - 5 years. by the owner, future wall owner or leasee.

Wall preparation

- The Best walls are unpainted
- Check for dampness or protruding mortar.
- Blow torch or scrape off ALL the flaky paint

- Seal to protect against damp
- Prime
- Grid wall with charcoal stringline
- Draw in in charcoal - then go over drawing in blue texta colour.
- Pre mix all colours to match sketch exactly in slightly more than quantity desired and keep in air tight containers (gladwrap is good too)
- Maximum preparation at this stage avoids unnecessary wastage and difficulties.
- Start painting from the top to avoid dripping over finished work
- Seal with protective glaze.
- Dedication booze up!

③ What sort of interaction do you have with the community? Do you all live in the area?

- Maximum knowledge of the area is desirable, but not essential - It is better to live in the area.

④ What has the response been from official bodies. I understand the City Council has donated some billboards.

- Build interest
- Correct!
- Eppingwood City Council has donated billboards with the possibility of more walls as they become available
- A progressive working class area.

⑤ Has there been any response from paint manufacturers etc?

- Small paint manufacturers show considerable interest

⑥ What are some of the techniques involved - Priming, pigments etc? Could you elaborate the

- We use artist quality acrylic for internal mural
- Industrial paints are worth consideration for exte eg marine paint.
- Aiming for clarity of content and style.

⑦ For anyone interested in such a project as yours how could they begin?

- Get a couple of friends together
- Develop a theme
- Find a wall
- Paint it.

Thank you for your interest - Good luck.
We would appreciate continued contact - any new information would be gratefully accepted.

Yours fraternally

Charlotte Stokes.

CHARLOTTE STOKES on behalf
Community Art Workers.