

Press Release

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Under the Obelisk 1989

Bluestone and marble

H 430 × W 597 × D 432 cm (overall)

Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by Runjiang Investment Group

Akio Makigawa's masterful *Under the Obelisk* arrives at ACU's Melbourne campus

We are delighted to announce the latest addition to the ACU Art Collection. *Under the Obelisk* (1989) is a striking monumental sculpture by acclaimed artist Akio Makigawa (1948–1999). It has been donated to the Australian Catholic University through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, by Runjiang Investment Group.

Capturing the essence of ancient poetry and modern symbolism, this inspiring abstract work stands testament to Makigawa's deep engagement with both spiritual and material realms.

Its three beautifully carved marble forms sit atop tapering bluestone towers, exemplifying a Zen-like considered simplicity. Movement is signalled in the marble's smooth, curving forms, which evoke the ephemerality of clouds shifting on a breeze.

For some 30 years, *Under the Obelisk* was located on St Kilda Road. The historically significant artwork now stands on the western side of the newly developed Campus Park, ACU Melbourne.

ACU art curator Caroline Field says: *Under the Obelisk* invites viewers into its tranquil fold. While materially heavy, the sculpture points to the ephemeral world of metaphysical thought and the spirit, and it brings a calmness and order to the often-bustling setting of a university campus.'

This exceptional work of art represents not only a major acquisition for the ACU Art Collection, but it also enriches the campus cultural landscape and is a key work in our developing sculpture precinct.

About Akio Makigawa

Japanese-born Akio Makigawa (1948–1999) arrived in Australia in 1974. Here, he became a leading sculptor known for his monumental abstract works exploring spirituality and materiality. His works are celebrated for their poetic symbolism and technical excellence.

For more information, please contact the curator's office:

artcollection@acu.edu.au

<https://artsandculture.acu.edu.au/>

03 9953 3516