



CASE STUDY

Time Talker by Alexander Knox

Overview

Time Talker, 2024 is a striking public artwork by Naarm/Melbourne-based artist Alexander Knox, known for creating large-scale public artworks and kinetic sculptures inspired by both the natural world and contemporary culture.

Located in Docklands, the artwork is a sculptural stack of blue mussel shells arranged into a humanlike totemic figure. The piece evokes a time when the Docklands and extensive shell middens formed part of the wetlands ecosystem of the Birrarung / Yarra Delta.

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System Featured:

Vitreflon 700 Fluoropolymer

To achieve its distinctive aluminium-bronze finish and long-term exterior durability, the sculpture was finished using A&I Coatings' Vitreflon 700 Fluoropolymer paint.

Project Details & Credits:

- Title: Time Talker, 2024
- Artist: Alexander Knox
- Location: Docklands
- Commission: Home Apartments for Home Docklands
- Curators: Craft (Image courtesy of Craft)
- Photography: Claire Armstrong
- Coating System: A&I Coatings Vitreflon 700
- Finish: Aluminium-bronze fluoropolymer paint

Scope of Works:

As a landmark public artwork in a prominent urban setting, Time Talker required a finish that would enhance and celebrate the sculpture's unique design while preserving its appearance for years to come. The scope of works focused on highlighting the intricate rippled shell texture, flowing organic forms, and striking aluminium-bronze aesthetic that define the artwork's visual character. Particular attention was given to achieving a consistent, high-quality finish across the complex sculptural surfaces, ensuring the artwork maintained its visual impact and reflected the artist's vision. The finished sculpture was required to withstand ongoing exposure to the elements while remaining an engaging and enduring feature within the public landscape.

Coating Solution:

A&I Coatings' **Vitreflon 700** was selected for Time Talker to achieve a premium aluminium-bronze finish while providing long-term protection in an exposed outdoor environment. This advanced **two-pack fluoropolymer (FEVE) topcoat** offers exceptional UV resistance, weathering performance, and unsurpassed colour and gloss retention, helping preserve the sculpture's visual impact over time. Combining durability with aesthetic versatility, Vitreflon 700 was the ideal solution for delivering both the artistic vision and lasting performance required for this landmark public artwork.

Results and Benefits:

Key benefits delivered through **Vitreflon 700** included:

- A premium metallic aluminium-bronze finish
- Excellent exterior durability
- Strong resistance to UV exposure and weathering
- Long-term colour and gloss retention
- Reduced maintenance requirements over the life of the artwork
- A finish that supports both the artistic vision and environmental exposure requirement

Project Outcome:

Time Talker successfully combines art, history, environment, and high-performance coating technology.

The sculpture references the ecological and cultural history of Docklands and the Birrarung / Yarra Delta, while also celebrating the resilience and beauty of marine life. Mussels, virtually unchanged for over 245 million years, have long served as a vital food source for First Peoples and as natural filters that sustain water health.

Within the top shell, a small spiral crustacea has made its home, symbolising hope and resilience for all creatures living together within the marine environment.

Through the use of A&I Coatings Vitreflon 700, the artwork achieves both a visually powerful finish and the long-term durability required for a public outdoor installation.



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