

BYJANTIC MAN

(Neil Murray)

Between 2012 and 2016 Artist, Trevor Flinn had been visiting Peter Redfearn's farm "Farnley" near Moulamein in NSW.

Initially Trevor's visits were part of a nationally funded arts project, TWIG (an artist on farms program initiated by Australia's Creative Rural Economy team in 2012) but in later years the visits, and the artworks which resulted, increased organically as did his friendship with Peter and his connection to the local landscape.

Since his first visit in 2012 Trevor has created installations out of found materials that were lying around- like fencing wire, scrap metal, twine, timber, wood, straw, vegetation, netting, paddy melons etc.

In 2015 Trevor utilised Peter's workshop and his brother Richard's arc welder to build a figurative sculpture with the idea of submitting it to a regional sculpture competition.

While Peter's nephew Mitchell inducted Trevor into the arcane secrets of welding, Trevor set about reconfiguring scrap metal, which included numerous, long hand-forged, iron bolts that had been imbedded in the timbers of a demolished bridge that once had spanned the Byjantic Creek- a tributary connected upstream of the Yarrein creek which flows through Peter's farm.

Working intuitively Trevor welded up a skeletal figure that he then wrapped with old telephone wires- thus Byjantic Man was born.

While Trevor's sculptural effort failed to win a prize in Dunkeld's 2015 Lost in Sculpture competition, Gerard Vaughn praised the work for its "compressed intensity" and eventually, after a few weeks positioned beside Dunkeld's Salt Creek, Trevor returned Byjantic Man (quite an undertaking as HE is heavy) to his rightful home on the banks of the Yarrein creek in Wemba Wemba country.

There, armed with a fishing spear and sheep jangle he was permanently placed in an open paddock, facing east towards the distant Edward river.

A couple of hundred metres back behind Byjantic Man are the remains of the Old Nyang West woolshed - circa 1860- where Trevor's other installations depict strange visitations and disaster —skeletal, apocalyptic figures on horseback, a corpse in a room, an alien space craft, a large cat, a giant possum, an enormous straw nest in a caravan with a single egg and a floating moon suspended in a shearer's hut.

In 2016 I played a concert at the Nyang West woolshed and it was there I met the Man.

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Holocaust came and laid waste to a world divided
Only one man escaped he's a sole survivor
He's leaving fast on his own and he don't look back
He's seen enough horror he can cry no more tears.
Byjantic Man

He's seen the future and he knows how to survive it
You gotta be strong like you're made of fire and steel
You gotta make good of all that's around you
You gotta use the birds like your own eyes and ears
Byjantic Man

He's cut away to the east, he's gone to the river
He's got a spear and he knows how to get a feed.
He'll travel swift at night by the moon and stars.
If there's a woman left alive on the planet he'll find her
Byjantic Man