

Melbourne's love locks cut down from Southbank footbridge re-imagined into work of art

By [Iskhandar Razak](#)

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PHOTO: People continue to put locks on the bridge but they are removed every month. (ABC News: Iskhandar Razak)

About 20,000 signs of everlasting love cut down from a Melbourne footbridge have been melted, re-cast, re-filed or reformed into works of art that will be sold for charity.

For years Melburnians and visitors have been using the Evan Walker Bridge from Southbank to Flinders Street Station to tell the world of their love with a padlock.

But in May 2015, the "love locks" were cut down by [Melbourne City Council](#).

The weight of the message was getting too much for the bridge to bear, but that left the council with 20,000 small problems.

"We didn't want to just throw away these expressions of love and affection," Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said.

So the council commissioned six local artists to make sure love found a way.

The results include a 120kg harmonic bell, 100 heart-shaped locks and a massive necklace, inspired by a convict tradition where inscribed pennies were worn by prisoners.

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PHOTO: Love locks are turned into a work of art. (ABC News: Iskhandar Razak)

Artworks on show will raise money for charity

Another work is a series of slip-cast porcelain locks in a tank by artist Kirsty Macafee.

"Water will be added to this bath and the locks will be dissolved and then potentially reformed and take a new shape," she said.

"I'd seen maybe the first or second lock go on the bridge ... and that is not something I would do now but certainly something that I would do when I was 19.

"But I really like the idea of the need of flexibility and fluidity for the longevity of any relationship. And the water references the [Yarra] river which is where many of the keys to these locks now reside."

The works are now on display at the Melbourne Town Hall, and people can enter a lottery to win one of the creations.



PHOTO: Artist Kirsty Macafee says her work signifies love's flow and change. (ABC News: Iskhandar Razak)

The heart-shaped locks are also being sold as part of a gift box and all proceeds will go to the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.

Other cities where love locks have been [removed en masse for safety reasons include Paris, New York, Dublin and Florence](#).



PHOTO: A lock from the Southbank footbridge now forms part of a large artwork. (ABC News: Steven Barnes)

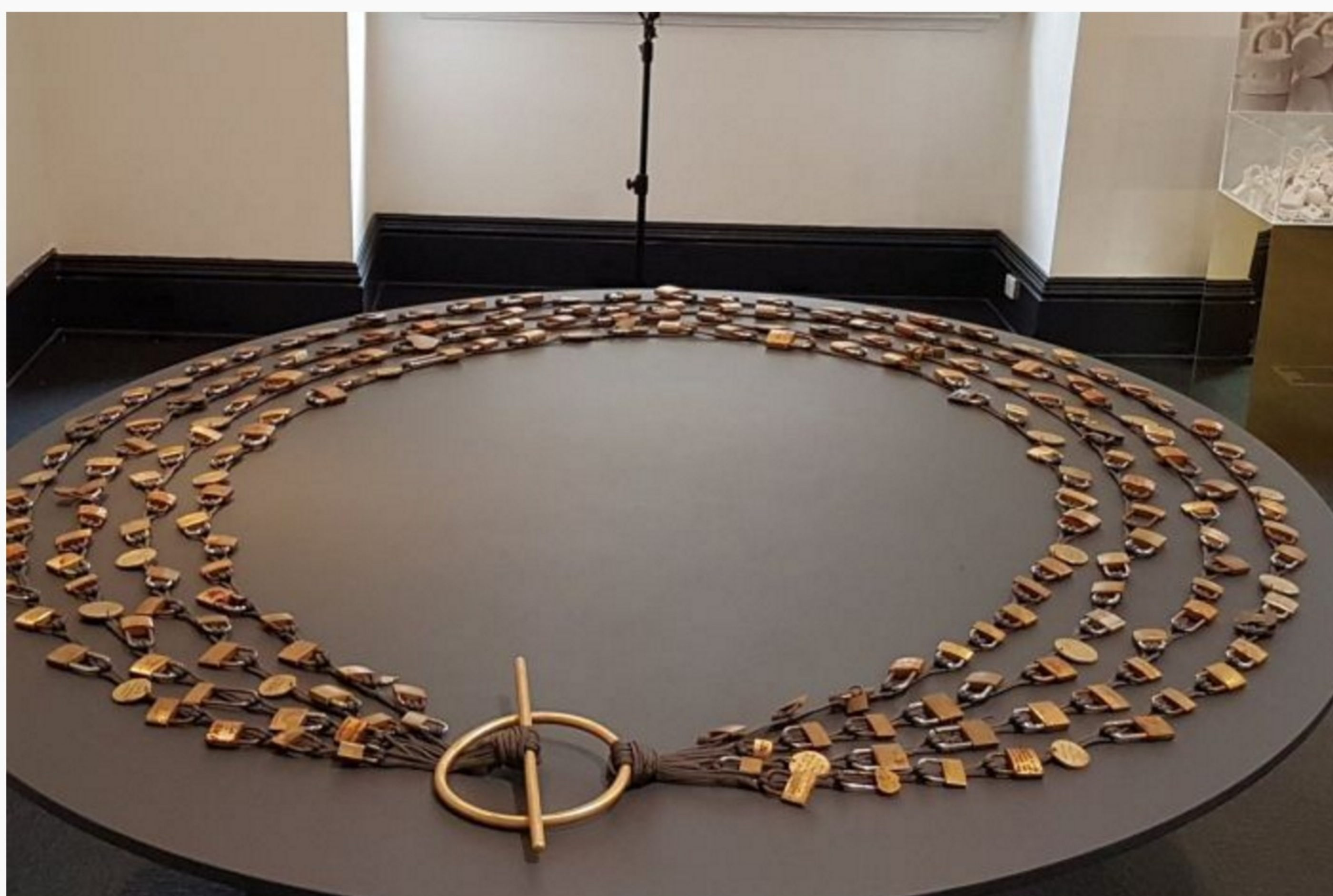


PHOTO: A convict-inspired necklace made of love locks cut from a Melbourne footbridge. (ABC News: Steven Barnes)