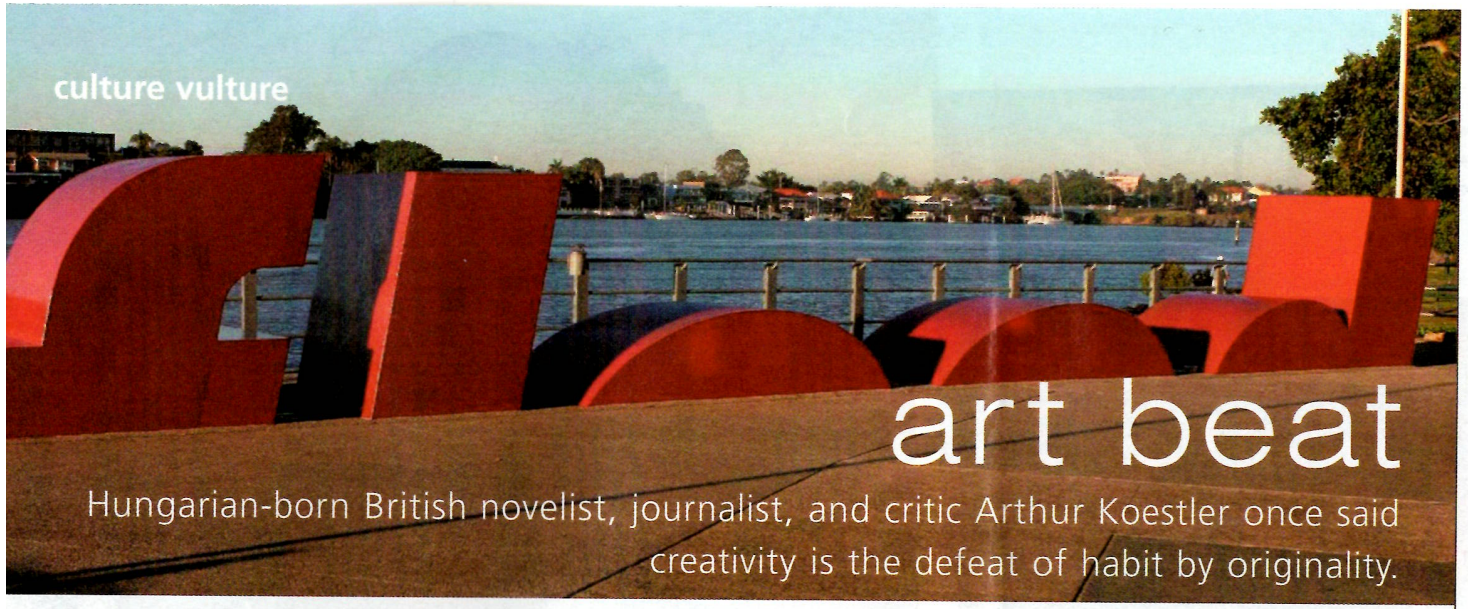

art beat

Hungarian-born British novelist, journalist, and critic Arthur Koestler once said creativity is the defeat of habit by originality.

Well if habit is putting artworks in galleries and museums, then the street art installations to be found in the city and suburbs of Brisbane are certainly a win for originality.

Getting out and seeing these vibrant sculptures, paintings, mosaics and mixed media works is one of the best do-it-yourself tours of the city and suburbs you can do. Take a day or an hour and you'll discover some of the city's history, our quirky side and our indulgent creative bent.

Brisbane's many public art pieces reveal a creative, metropolitan city with a good sense of humour and a good sense of self.

Some pieces are bold and beautiful, like Sebastian Di Mauro's *Chat*, two huge aluminium sculpted hands installed at 175 Eagle Street in the City as a permanent artwork. Some are clever like Richard Tipping's *Three Hour Barking* sign at Brisbane Powerhouse's dog park, or quirky like his riverside *Flood* sculpture, where the giant red letters F-L-O-O-D are only half visible, signalling you guessed it, a flood!

Pelicans by sculptor Christopher Trotter on the boardwalk at Kangaroo Point cliffs is simply elegant. Two stylised pelicans made from scrap metal stand proudly on a river pylon.

Some pieces, like the intricately finished mosaic old-fashioned *couch* on Latrobe Terrace at Paddington, are functional as well as beautiful. The couch, by mosaicist Scott Harrower, is so real it invites you to take a rest and drink in the vista of original Queenslander houses peppering the hilly suburb.

You can search Brisbane City Council's Art in Public Places database to map out a self-guided tour. Simply go to www.brisbane.qld.gov.au and search for 'Art in public places'.

There you will be able to search for artworks in a locality, by a particular artist or by a theme, and you'll also find information about the artists and the history of the artworks.

Top left: 'Flood' by Richard Tipping. Above: 'Pelicans' by Christopher Trotter; 'Chat' by Sebastian Di Mauro; '3 Hour Barking' by Richard Tipping