The City Speaks brings art into the laneways, parks and public spaces of Melbourne’s city streets. Through performance, installation and spoken word, participating artists and writers evoke encounter, curiosity and provocation – probing a wide, and at times unsuspecting, audience to rethink the definition of art and consider how it might reflect, enrich, and even alter, urban space and society.

The City Speaks examines the enduring relationship between visual art and language, revealing a variety of ways in which the two come together to enliven and interrupt public space, and contribute to ideas about the city, urbanism and community. Art and text have long been entwined – from Cubist collage and the printed posters of de Stijl to the typographical experiments of the Dadaists and Surrealists, through Concrete Poetry and Conceptual practices of the 1960s, to contemporary painting, performance, video, installation, situationist, relational and digital art. On a daily basis, in our city streets, we are appealed to, and at times overwhelmed by, the integration of visual images and the written word, in advertising, branding, directional signage, street art... How then, might art and language combine in unexpected and myriad ways, to cut through the visual noise of urban space and encourage us to see our city through new eyes?

For more information and to book visit accaonline.org.au
Advertising billboards at Flinders Lane, AC DC Lane, RMIT University, A’Beckett St, Flinders St, Wellington Pde, Swanston St, Elizabeth St, Market St, Franklin St, La Trobe St, Queen Vic Markets, Bourke St, Queen St, Tattersall Lane, Jones Lane.