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Where Melbourne's laneways came from

VIC News

Award-winning artist to have popular streetscape covered by council

IAN ROYALL, Herald Sun

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THERE'S street art and then there's art on the street.

Award-winning artist Vincent Fantauzzo has created a bold chequered design on the bitumen of Strachan Lane, off Exhibition St, in the CBD.

The alleyway has now become a hit with tourists and lovers of the city's famed street art.

But Fantauzzo did not receive permission from the city council to cover the street with paint and it will have to go.

Council has asked a local business owner to remove the artwork in the next few days.

Since Fantauzzo's bold streetscape appeared it has drawn street art enthusiasts who normally haunt traditional favourite sites such as Hosier Lane and Centre Place.

The Strachan Lane artwork is located behind Collins St fashion houses Hermes and Prada.

The artist part owns Harley House restaurant which is based in the same laneway.

A Harley House spokesman refused to comment on Thursday.

"Nothing to do with us," he said.

Fantauzzo won the Archibald Prize people's choice award in 2013 and 2014 with portraits of his wife, actor Asher Keddie, and his young son Luca respectively.



Vincent Fantauzzo and Asher Keddie.



Penny Pantoulis, 12, in the Strachan lane. Picture: Josie Hayden

The rebel artwork appeared about a week ago, prompting a burst of social media photos.

Fantauzzo also created a painting of 80s pop star Cyndi Lauper on the walls of Strachan Lane last year.

Coincidentally, the lane has also attracted fans of the singer who are in town for her concert with Blondie at Rod Laver Arena on Thursday night.

City of Melbourne spokeswoman Kathy Alys said Town Hall administration had not received any requests to remove the graffiti on Strachan Lane.

“However, the painting of roads is not permitted, and we have contacted the relevant business owner to request they remove the paint from the road surface,” Ms Alys said.

Painting a public thoroughfare is not allowed but to paint walls, artists usually need the permission of the building’s owner.

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