

Art takes a ride

By GEOFFREY WRIGHT

MELBOURNE'S trams are going wild in an artistic way . . . well, at least six of them.

Top painters, commissioned by the Ministry of Art are painting six old Melbourne trams in their own exotic way.

With the co-operation of the Tramways Board, the trendy trams will eventually run around Melbourne to brighten up our traffic scene.

The artists are Mirka Mora, Andrew Southall, Mike Brown, Clifton Pugh, Les Kossatz and Sandra Leveson.

Mirka and Andrew have just about finished painting their trams and the rest should be finished by the end of the year.

The Ministry has allocated \$14,000 for this "color-my-tram" project.

The Tramways Board should become rich when these trams start running. They're obviously going to be a knock-out — a real customer attraction.

Yesterday, Mirka with paint all over her face, and Andrew were busily working away in the tramways paint depot at Preston.

Both said the trams were a formidable "canvas" — at least a month's work.

The Board gave them blueprints of the trams and they did their design work on those.

Mirka has painted cherubs all over her tram and written Edward Lear poetry on the advertising panels inside.

She has transformed the ventilators on the roof into the heads of geese.

Andrew has spread multi-colored tables, bikini-clad women, and all sorts of other odd things over what is normally green and yellow.

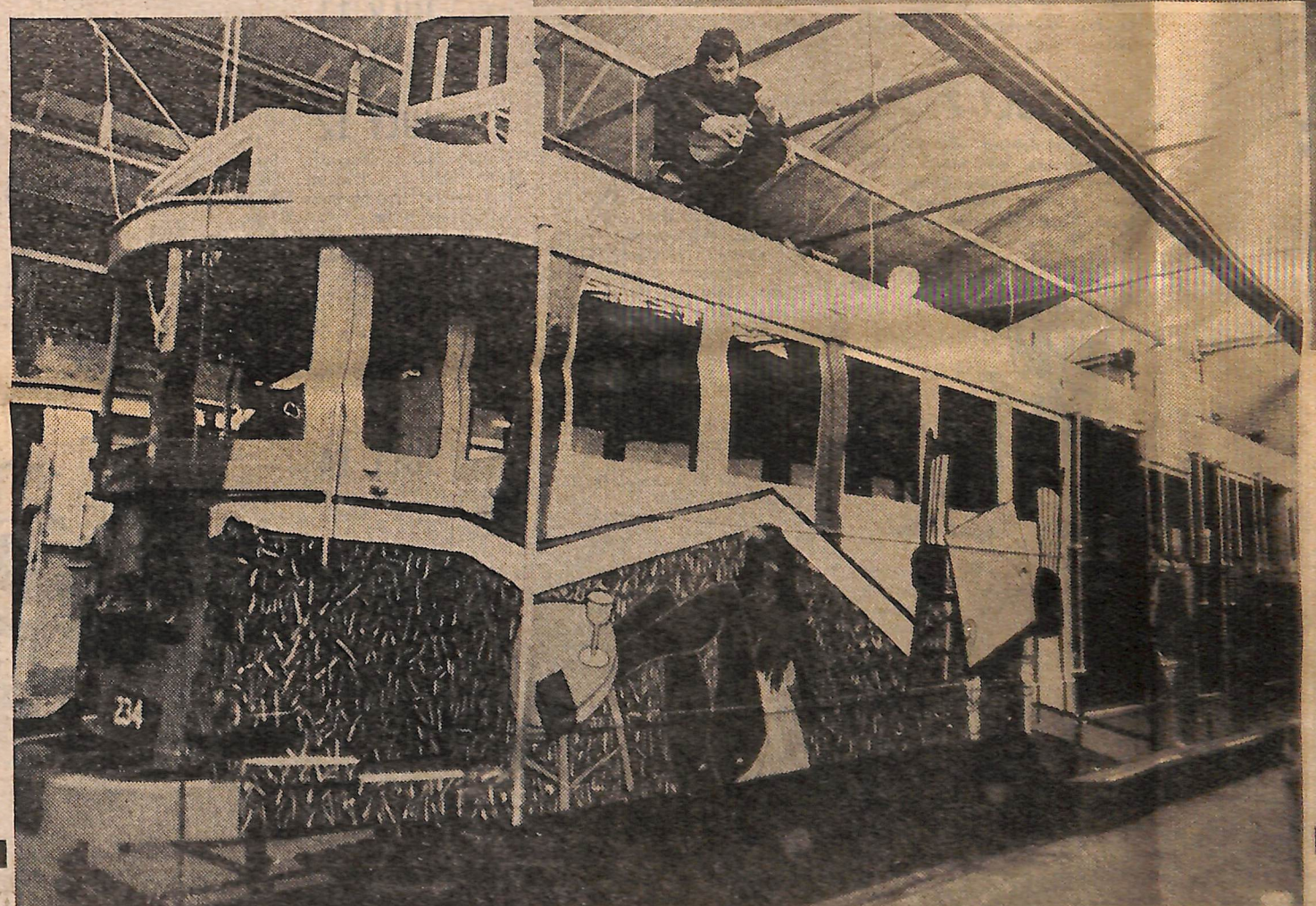
Andrew said tramways painters working on other trams were enjoying the presence of "non-union labor".

"We get some funny comments from them," he said.



MIRKA has transformed the front of this tram from a dull green to a dazzling red and white design.

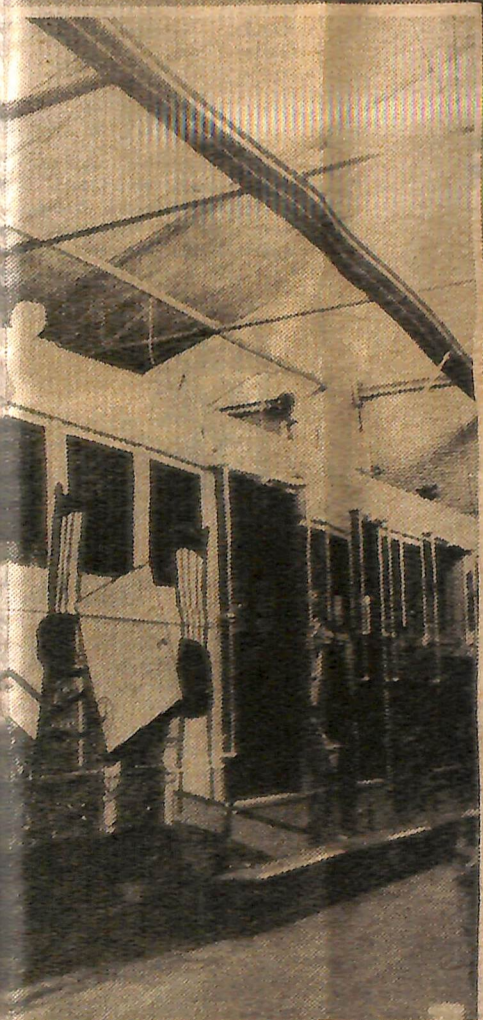
Pictures:
GEOFF BULL



ANDREW adds finishing touches to his design. The multi-colored tram has been working since last week.



↑ IT will certainly raise a few eyebrows in Bourke St . . . Mirka Mora has painted cherubs, geese, and a host of other designs on her tram, which is nearly finished.



← ANDREW SOUTHALL adds finishing touches to his design. He has painted multi-colored tables and bikini-clad women in the month he has been working on the tram.

HAVING to stand up on a long tram ride is no joke — but straphangers on this tram won't find the trip so dull with plenty of Mirka's verse and drawings to read.

