

Australia is one of the most urbanised countries in the world. That means that the vast majority of us live in cities and towns. Consequently, we are all intimately familiar with the concept, if not the reality of suburbia. Whether we live in one, grew up in one or daily consume a televisual representation of one, the suburb is an indisputable part of our cultural lexicon. Sadly, however, familiarity seems to have bred contempt for this sociological phenomenon: suburbia is often portrayed in learned discourse as mind-numbing and soulless, populated by serial conformists frustrated by their own conformity and powerless because of it. *Three Scenes from Suburbia* seeks to challenge this perspective by taking vignettes from suburban life and embracing the wonder and excitement an outside observer might have when looking without prejudice at our way of life. This is done through a process of mythologisation, whereby each seemingly mundane scene is given both literary and metaphysical significance within the context of the Western cultural canon which underpins our understanding of the world.

The first movement is prefaced by this quote from the poem, 'The Daisy', by William Wordsworth:

*...A little Cyclops, with one eye
Staring to threaten and defy...*

However, it is used here not in reference to a daisy or indeed any other flower, but rather to the sudden appearance of traffic lights when moving through the suburban landscape. The second movement concerns itself with the characteristic 'greenness' of our avenues and gardens by way of these lines from Abraham Cowley's 'The Spring':

*...Where ere you walk'd trees were as reverend made,
As when of old Gods dwelt in every shade...*

Finally, this fragment from Samuel Taylor Coleridge's 'Fears in Solitude' heralds a celebration of the colours, shapes and sounds of the ubiquitous suburban shopping centre:

*...O divine
And beauteous island! thou hast been my sole
And most magnificent temple, in the which
I walk with awe, and sing my stately songs...*