

***Defying Empire: 3rd National Indigenous Art Triennial* Education Resource**

Teacher's notes:

Educational and learning content provided within these webpages provides insight into the works of art in the *Defying Empire: 3rd National Indigenous Art Triennial* exhibition, encouraging engagement with the key concepts and themes through responding and making. The interconnected ideas that link the works offer a cohesive thread and invite the viewer to explore the different ways the artists have engaged with issues pertaining to the 1967 Referendum and its effects over 50 years.

These resources complement a visit to the exhibition through activities and ideas to assist with preparation for the gallery visit, as a reference when you are viewing the works and to deepen understanding and engagement with post-visit activities and discussion. The content can be adapted by educators to suit units of study and integrated into a broad range of outcomes.

The *Defying Empire* exhibition is perfectly suited to critical and creative thinking. Enhancing thinking that is productive, purposeful and intentional is at the centre of effective learning. By applying a sequence of thinking skills, students develop an increasingly sophisticated understanding of the processes they can employ whenever they encounter problems, unfamiliar information and new ideas.

The invitation to create their own works of art directly engages each students' ability to organise elements, in particular inquiry-based learning, enhancing their ability in identifying, exploring and organising information and ideas.

Suggested vocabulary to enhance students' ability to articulate their thoughts and knowledge around creative practice and Indigenous Australia are highlighted with definitions included in the glossary on each page.

Australian Curriculum links:

The educational content developed for *Defying Empire: 3rd National Indigenous Art Triennial* is directly linked to the Australian Curriculum and is designed to develop successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active, informed citizens within the context of the contemporary Indigenous arts practice represented in the exhibition. This resource is designed for upper primary and secondary students and can be adapted for tertiary students.

Cross-curriculum priorities:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

Sustainability

History

Artists and themes:

Seven artists from *Defying Empire: 3rd National Indigenous Art Triennial* have been selected to feature in the educational resource material, one from each of the seven curatorial themes that make up the exhibition:

1. Forever Memory

Yvonne Koolmatrie

Ngarrindjeri people

born 1944 Wudinna, South Australia

lives and works Berri, South Australia

2. Resistance and Refusal

Reko Rennie

Kamilaroi/Gamilaraay/Gummaroi peoples

born 1974 Melbourne, Victoria

lives and works Melbourne, Victoria

3. Disrupting Invisibility

Brian Robinson

Maluyligal/Wuthathi/Dayak peoples
born 1974 Waiben (Thursday Island), Torres Strait
Islands, Queensland
lives and works Cairns, Queensland

4. Asserting Presence

Sandra Hill
Minang/Wardandi/Ballardong/Nyoongar peoples
born 1951 Perth, Western Australia
lives and works Balingup, Western Australia

5. Rising Passion

Karla Dickens
Wiradjuri people
born 1967 Sydney, New South Wales
lives and works Lismore, New South Wales

6. Bearing Witness

Daniel Boyd
Kudjla/Gangalu peoples
born 1982 Cairns, Queensland
lives and works Sydney, New South Wales

7. Recount and Revive

Jonathan Jones
Wiradjuri/Kamilaroi peoples
born 1978 Sydney, New South Wales
lives and works Sydney, New South Wales

Education resource

The educational content for each of the seven selected artists is divided into sections including:

- **Speak your mind**
Talking points or provocations to unpack the works through discussion and/or contemplation. Includes options for senior students.
- **Get to work**
Creative making suggestions that highlight key concepts.
- **Think it through**
Ideas to aid students in the creation of works. Includes options for senior students.
- **Places to go**
Links for more information, including the artists' websites, collection links, previous National Indigenous Art Triennials and related material.
- **Talk the talk**
Glossary of words within the education resource and artist statement.
- **In the news**
Current affairs around the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum and media coverage the exhibition.