

Artist Activities

Making masks with Tony Albert



'The desire to paint the landscape involves a wish to hear more of the stories that take place within the landscape. Stories which may not only be heard in country towns and read in the journals of explorers, but which persist in the memory.'

– Sidney Nolan

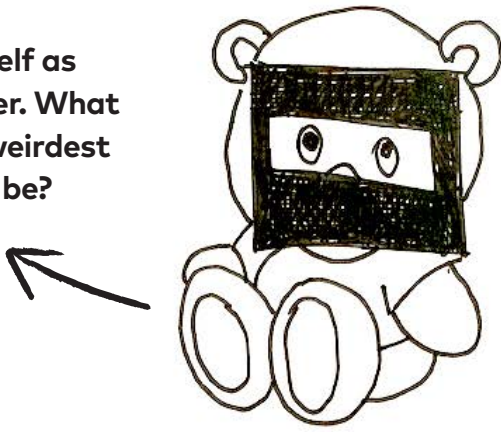
Art gives the opportunity to tell stories. For Aboriginal people these stories have not been recorded in books, but instead passed down through storytelling. When we look at the land we see these stories. How the mountains, rivers and country were made.

Bushrangers were escaped convicts who, in the early years of the British settlement of Australia, used the Australian bush to hide. Ned Kelly, who died in 1880, is one of the most well-known bushrangers.

Vincent Namatjira and I collaborated on *Australia's most wanted* in 2018. Vincent dressed up as Ned Kelly. We were saying that if we were bushrangers, the paint brush would be our 'weapon'.



Draw yourself as a bushranger. What would the weirdest bushranger be?

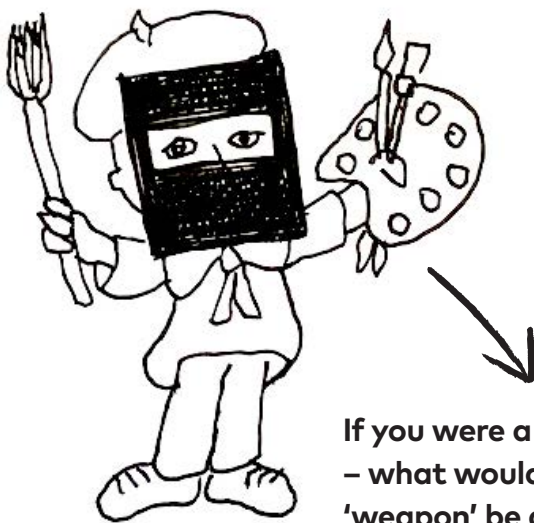


Tony Albert (Girramay/Yidinji/Kuku-Yalanji peoples) uses text, video, drawing, painting and three-dimensional objects in his practice to examine the legacy of racial and cultural misrepresentation, particularly of Australia's Aboriginal people.

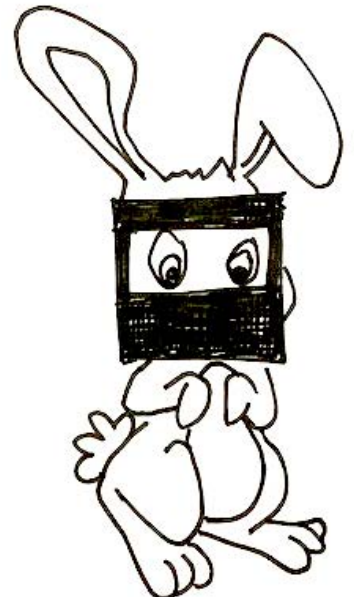


Ned Kelly Trivia:

- There were more than 600 known Bushrangers in Australia.
- Historians say bushrangers stopped after Ned Kelly, maybe he was the last Bushranger.
- Ned Kelly's armour weighed around 41kg. It was made from stolen mouldboards from ploughs and took 4 to 5 months to make.
- Ned Kelly was the eldest of 8 children.
- Ned Kelly's last words are thought to have been 'such is life'.



If you were a bushranger – what would your 'weapon' be and how would you use it to tell your story?



A bushranger might evoke all kinds of words... MYTH / LEGENDS / IDENTITY / GENDER / REBEL / JUSTICE / ETHICS / LAW / LORE / CRIMINAL / HERO Can you think of other words?