

Basic Detail Report



00054536

Title

Black Bastards Are Coming

Date

2013

Primary Maker

Gordon Syron

Medium

Unframed oil on stretched canvas

Dimensions

Display dimensions: 1020 × 700 × 20 mm Overall: 1024 × 704 × 20 mm Image: 1020 × 700 mm

Name

Painting

History

Gordon Syron is a Biripi/Worimi artist born in New South Wales who was involved with the East Coast Encounter initiative. In Gordon Syron's 'The Black Bastards Are Coming' he has created a raw, ironic painting that re-imagines the arrival at Kamay/Botany Bay by shifting expected roles and power relationships. Syron, like Michael Cook, is asking us to look at this historical encounter from another perspective. He uses his art as a way of reclaiming and retelling erased Indigenous histories. "This painting highlights the need for Australia to recognise the pre-existing history/rights of Aboriginal land ownership. We must always remember our elders who fought gallantly and bravely in the Aboriginal wars to keep our land. If we don't remember and paint these stories, and teach our children this history, then who will?" - Gordon Syron

The East Coast Encounter project is a multi-arts initiative involving Australian Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal artists, writers and songwriters to re-imagine the encounter by Lt James Cook and his crew with Aboriginal people in 1770. Cook's voyage along the Australian east coast has become central to national historical narratives. The exhibition re-envisages this seminal journey by imaginatively exploring moments of contact between two world views during these encounters. It also brings these events into the present by incorporating artists' reflections on their relevance today, and their responses to visits to significant contact locations. Topics such as encounter, impact, differing perspectives, nature and culture and views of country are investigated.