

Basic Detail Report



00054535

Title

Botany Bay

Date

2012

Primary Maker

Gordon Syron

Medium

Unframed oil on stretched canvas

Dimensions

Display dimensions: 610 × 1080 × 20 mm Overall: 612 × 1084 × 20 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. This 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. In this painting 'Botany Bay' Syron imagines the area just prior to the British arrival. The peaceful night and silent beauty are even more poignant as we the viewer are aware of what is about to happen with the arrival of Cook, the ENDEAVOUR and the events that will unfold.