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**Title**

Colonial Wallpapers - Mantle of Perception (panel 5)

**Date**

2017

**Primary Maker**

Helen S Tiernan

**Medium**

Oil on canvas

**Dimensions**

Overall: 1785 × 610 × 40 mm

**Name**

Painting

**History**

In this panel of 'Colonial Wallpapers - Mantle of Perception' Helen S Tiernan presents the viewer, looking through the edge of trees, an imagined landscape. In the foreground stands a replica of a stone shelter built and used by the Gunditj Mirring people at Tyrendarra in Victoria. These stone houses, whose stone bases were constructed of basalt rocks, are located in the Lake Condah region of Victoria. They represent the permanency of Aboriginal people in the landscape. Here communities undertook large scale eel breeding with an extensive channel system spreading over a proposed area of 30 kilometres. At an estimated 8,000 years old, these structures in the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape are an ancient presence, dwarfing the more elaborate structures along the coastline in the distance. In the far left of the panel almost indiscernible is a rear view of

Sidney Nolan's Ned Kelly. Kelly here holds two spears instead of his shotgun. Once an outsider and hunted, Kelly is now seen as a national hero, linked with the Australian identity. And yet others seen as 'outsiders' and persecuted such as Indigenous people have not shared in a history being reconstructed and retold.