

Basic Detail Report



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Title

Heroes of Colonial Encounters - Mickie

Date

2017

Primary Maker

Helen S Tiernan

Medium

Oil on canvas

Dimensions

Overall: 365 × 262 × 20 mm

Name

Painting

History

In the series of works 'Heroes of Colonial Encounters' Helen S Tiernan explores national identity and the singular European view of colonial history and the way Indigenous peoples are depicted as the 'primitive' or 'other'. The portraits she paints of Bennelong, Bungaree, Colby, Bidgee Bidgee, Ballodere and Mickie sees them equal to their European contemporaries such as Cook, Joseph Banks, William Bligh, Arthur Philip and Matthew Flinders. All portraits are to hang together on the same wall, equally ornate, equal in style and equal in history. The only differences in the treatment of the subjects are the shape of the frame. Indigenous heroes are depicted in oval frames while European men are shown in square and more informal frames. Mickie, sometimes referred to as 'Mickey', was an Awabakal man people of the Newcastle region. Experiencing the devastating effects of the first wave of European colonisation in that area, it is recorded that Mickie/Mickey was captured, tried and sentenced to death by the colonial authorities for the alleged rape of an English woman in 1835. Faced with his death sentence Mickie was visited by the priest Lancelot Threlkeld. Threlkeld had been a strong advocator for the Awabakal people, often going against the local European community and government. But his attempts to convert Mickie to Christianity failed as Mickie held true to his traditional Awabakal beliefs and refused to concede.