

# Basic Detail Report

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**Title**

Heroes of Colonial Encounters - William Bligh

**Date**

2017

**Primary Maker**

Helen S Tiernan

**Medium**

Oil on canvas

**Dimensions**

Overall: 305 × 305 × 40 mm

**Name**

Painting

**History**

This painting of William Bligh by Helen S Tiernan is based on a 1776 portrait by John Webber. William Bligh, a contentious figure in both British and Australian history, was the fourth Governor of New South Wales. Bligh arrived in the colony in August 1806 but in January 1808 was arrested and overthrown by the military during what became known as the Rum Rebellion. Bligh fled to Hobart and although the military action would later be ruled illegal in London courts, Bligh never returned as Governor. As part of a series of portraits that make up 'Heroes of Colonial Encounters', this portrait of Ballodere is part of Helen Tiernan's exploration of 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 Tommy sees them treated equally as 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.