

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Passionate Aboriginal Women Artists

Artist Bronwyn Bancroft (Yarramundi Higher Degree Research Scholarship recipient) is exploring the passion and politics of Aboriginal women artists and their work under the expert guidance of her supervisors Professor Michael Atherton and Associate Professor Hart Cohen from the School of Communication Arts and Professor Rhonda Craven from the Centre for Positive Psychology in Education. The project is funded by the Australian Research Council through its Discovery Indigenous Researcher Development grants scheme.

'NSW Aboriginal women artists have largely been excluded from Australian Art collections, both private and public', says Ms Bancroft. 'Both established and emerging artists seem to have been left out of critical analyses of their works, and must struggle to be recognised both politically and artistically. This project aims to explore NSW Aboriginal women artists' views on the passion, power and politics of Aboriginal Art; considering why particular works and creators are excluded while others thrive; how pre-existing stereotypical views about what constitutes 'Aboriginal Art' affects gallery collections and as a direct result, public perceptions; and how NSW Aboriginal women artists have influenced the political landscape, if at all.'

This researcher will use oral history to gather information and consider its questions in a culturally sensitive manner that recognises and respects the expertise and unique perspectives of NSW Aboriginal women artists. A thorough analysis of the collection policies and practices of public and private art galleries in Australia and overseas will be conducted.



By investigating NSW Aboriginal women and their art, their lives and their history, this research will add to our knowledge of Aboriginal Art and culture, particularly in relation to these extraordinary women. In doing so, it will contribute to a greater awareness of the artists as well as the issues that directly affect them, and us, the Australian community.

Project Title: The Passion, Power & Politics of Aboriginal Art: Established artists and emerging NSW women artists' perceptions and representation bias in collections

Funding has been set at: \$115,163

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August 2012