

**Always Was,  
Always Will Be.**

**8-15 NOV 2020**

**ENERO celebrates NAIDOC Week**

# Art Competition Winners

## First Place

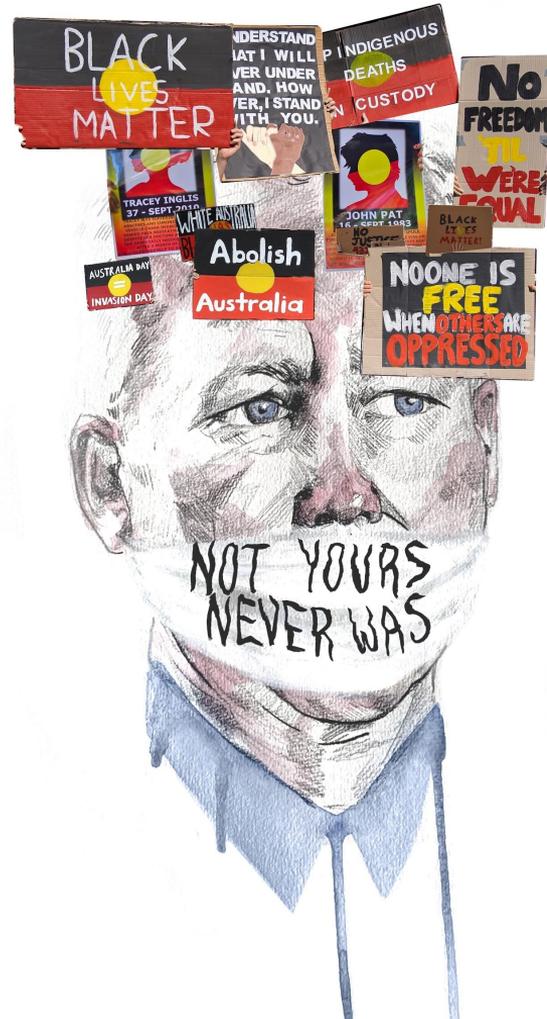
Not Yours, Never Was

by Evie Hillier

BMF



NAIDOC week for me is a time where we should elevate Indigenous voices rather than speak over them – something that should be done all days of the year. For my piece I have put a gag over NSW Police Commissioner Mick Fuller, who tried to shut down the Black Lives Matter protest earlier in the year and made false claims about Indigenous deaths in custody, and plastered his face with signs from the protest, showing that the voices of minorities cannot be silenced. I wrote "not yours, never was" over the gag as sovereignty was never ceded and Australia always was and always will be Aboriginal land.



## Second Place

Un-erodible Heritage

by Rob Boddington

BMF



The land that we stand on, that the modern idea of Australia has been built on, is land that was shaped and formed by Indigenous Australians for longer than any other civilisation on earth. They trod on every inch of it. Layer on layer. Soil particle on soil particle. For over forty thousand years. So we can argue all we like about the bits built on the top of it. But every layer of the land we live on has been shaped by aboriginal Australians. It always was and it always will be a geological history of their culture and ownership of this country. And you can't really argue with geology.



## Third Place

### Directions Tree

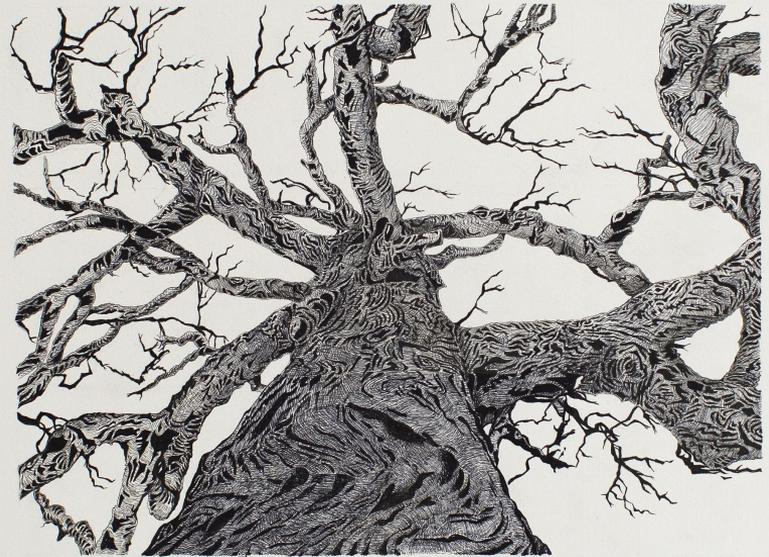
by Leila Cranswick

BMF



Last month, despite a blockade and community protests, a sacred tree of the Djab Wurrung people was felled by the Victorian government. To VicRoads, this tree was seen as nothing more than an obstruction to its \$157 million Western Highway Project. But to the Djab Wurrung, this tree was more than just a tree. This tree was an ancestor and a beloved Grandmother. She witnessed the births of countless Djab Wurrung beneath her branches. She nurtured them, she guided them and reconnected them to the land.

Gazing upwards, we can't help but take in all of her majesty, her grandeur and intricacy. In this work, I wanted to memorialise every detail, every groove and every story that was once part of this sacred tree. The final piece serves as a visual obituary of a tree that always was, and always will be part of the Djab Wurrung memory.



## Fourth Place

Useless Whiteness  
by Rob Boddington  
BMF



Currently, Australia's indigenous heritage and history is still being left out of a great many cultural conversations. It's not taught enough at schools or discussed enough on a regular basis. It's not common knowledge but token knowledge. Australia's cultural identity is whitewashed. Much like this pear.

It may have been painted white but beneath it's a pear and always will be a pear. And until we stop pretending the whiteness is the best bit and actually acknowledge the truth about this pear and our cultural identity, we won't be able to learn from, understand and enjoy either of them.

