# *Sydney Road Blaks*

## Paola Balla, Daniel Boyd, Destiny Deacon, Kim Kruger, Savanna Kruger, Mandy Nicholson,

## Sofii Belling-Harding and Stacie Piper

## Curated by Kim Kruger, Savanna Kruger and Lisa Hilli

**10 September to 30 October 2022**

## About the exhibition

In 1847, ten black men were surveilled travelling down Sydney Road. Where did they come from? Where were they going? Who were they? The Assistant Protector for Aborigines investigated and, to his astonishment, found the men were South Sea Islanders ‘imported’ by Benjamin Boyd. The reportage on the men shows the attitudes towards the men and to Wurundjeri people, which still impact South Sea Islanders and Aboriginal people today.

*Sydney Road Blaks* considers settler surveillance, the racial hierarchy between white settlers, Aboriginal peoples and Pacific Islanders, and the underlying colonial networks of empire on the Sydney Road trade route, both before 1847, and after.

The artists wonder how the men may have been treated if they had been met on Wurundjeri terms, and, in a time when the local area will return to a Woiwurrung language name, away from the vestiges of the proceeds of slavery, is a timely reminder that Wurundjeri and other Aboriginal people are still here. As climate trauma deepens and climate refugees will soon be joining us from the Pacific, it is a time for everyone to learn how to live in good relations with Wurundjeri people on their Country.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.



## Artwork details

*Clockwise from entrance*

**Sofii Belling-Harding**

*Urban Legendz*, 2022

Digital print on paper

84 x 118 cm

**Paola Balla**

*Wurkatayil mula-ngert –* *black star,* 2022

Acrylic, pencil and water colour on wood panel
Three panels: 40 x 50 x 2.5 cm each

**Daniel Boyd**

*Untitled*, 2014

Oil, charcoal and archival glue on canvas

198 x 168 cm

On loan from Prue Brown

Daniel Boyd is represented by Station Gallery

**Mandy Nicholson**

*Baanj Biik (Water Country), Biik-ut (Below Country), Wominjeka, Wurundjeri Biik*

*Water, Below Country, What Connects Us, Welcome, Safety on Wurunderi Country*, 2022

Digital prints on vinyl

Three panels: 96.5 x 129.5 cm each

**Stacie Piper**

*Baanj Biik (Water Country), Biik-ut (Below Country), Wominjeka, Wurundjeri Biik*

*Water, Below Country, What Connects Us, Welcome, Safety on Wurunderi Country*, 2020

Audio-visual projection and impressions

2 minutes and 26 seconds (looped)

**Destiny Deacon**

*Dolly’s Eyes*,2020

Digital prints on adhesive clear film

104.5 x 172 cm

98 x 44.5 cm

Destiny Deacon is represented by Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery

**Kim Kruger**

*Within ten miles of Melbourne*, 2022

Digital print on Ilford Fibre Pearl paper

42 x 29.7 cm

84.1 x 59.4 cm

**Savanna Kruger**

*If you prick us…,* 2022

Plaster, beads and metal wire

53 x 53 x 20 cm

**Kim Kruger**

*Splitting logs for a “feed”*, 2022

Digital print on Ilford Fibre Pearl paper

42 x 29.7 cm

84.1 x 59.4 cm

**Kim Kruger**

*Woolly headed*, 2022

Polyethylene wool packs, ink, stuffing, Australian wool

98 x 70 x 70 cm each

Night Screen Projection on Sydney Road:

**Destiny Deacon**

*Look out*! (From the series *Gazette*), 2009

Inkjet print from digital image on archival paper

60 x 80 cm

Edition of 5

Destiny Deacon is represented by Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery

## *Sydney Road Blaks* is inspired by the research of Aboriginal and South Sea Islander Elder Patricia Corowa and Historian Tracey Banivanua Mar.

## Listen to Tracey talk about Indigenous and colonial histories related to the exhibition in an interview with Marita Dyson and Jess Lilley on RRR.

## The link to the interview can be found on the exhibition page via the QR code below.

## Download a digital copy of this roomsheet

## Scan the QR code and scroll to the bottom of the exhibition page to access a digital copy of this roomsheet in a Word Doc format.

