

# LIVING IN THEIR TIMES



27 May 2017

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UTS has a deep commitment to Indigenous knowledges and storytelling. Living in Their Times is a reflection of that commitment and UTS's strong embrace of social justice. The Jumbunna Institute is proud to be working with UTS ART on this project, showcasing the vision and voices of Djon Mundine, Pauline Clague and Robert Campbell Jnr. Individually, they speak boldly through their creative processes; collectively, they embody the spirit of self-determination. As we celebrate fifty years since the 1967 referendum and twenty five years since the Mabo decision was handed down and twenty years since the Bringing them Home report was released, Living in Their Times explores the themes that need to be at the heart of our national conversations.

**Prof. Larissa Behrendt** is a Eualeyai/Kamillari woman. She is the Professor of Law and Director of Research at the Jumbunna Institute.

## **BLAK Lives Count— 1967 Referendum Anniversary**

*People in Australia have to register their dogs and cattle, but we don't know how many Aborigines there are.*

—Faith Bandler, 1965

This year in 2017 it will be 229 years since, as artist Tracey Moffatt says, the 'white ghosts sailed in', into what is now Sydney Harbour and forever after destructively into the lives of Aboriginal people. It is the 60th anniversary of the strike by Palm Island Indigenous workers against pay and conditions there. The seven leaders and their families were forcibly banished from the island in response. It is also the 50th anniversary of the successful 1967 Referendum on the status of Aboriginal people. The 1967 Referendum in Australia achieved an amazing 90.77% 'yes' vote. It meant Aboriginal people would be counted in the census, the national population

figures, meaning they were to be reckoned and potentially counted in regards to health, housing, education, policies and planning, and so on.

It also allowed for the Commonwealth government to make laws for Aboriginal people – to override state laws that disadvantaged us (although it never used this power). Unfortunately, in a way it let non-Aboriginal Australians off the moral hook, in fact, they could vote 'yes' in a morally correct way because it didn't cost or inconvenience them in their lives. The Commonwealth government and other instruments of the state didn't act even with such a mandate.

The Referendum did not, as some think, give Aboriginal people the right to vote. Aboriginal people could enrol and vote by this time but it wasn't compulsory until 1983. So, although in most ways, without real action developing from the 'state', the positive zeitgeist, influenced by the civil rights and Black Power movements in the USA, moved Aboriginal people to take our own actions from hereon.

*This is my land, and these are my people.*

—Bungaree

One of the strongest results of this referendum was to empower us to be conscious of our own power, and to define ourselves rather than allowing governments and non-Aboriginal Australia to tell us who we are, how we should speak and live, and what we should be.

## **Bungaree's Farm**

Bon Marche Studio

The multidisciplinary installation Bungaree's Farm employs the colonial Aboriginal figure Bungaree who lived 'on the harbour' in the decades of the arrival of the British. He was the first person on the record to be called an 'Australian'. He was the first Australian to circumnavigate the Australian



continent (with Matthew Flinders), and cynically, the first to be given a 'King plate', and a grant of land to be assimilated into becoming a farmer (unsuccessfully). What did he think watching the colonisation of his country – was he a sell-out (a coconut), a hero or fool-villain? How do we maintain our self-identity and integrity, to remain Aboriginal, to remain human, in the face of the colonial British hegemony that continues still today?

### **Bungaree—A Man in Space**

Jung is reported to observe;  
*it is indeed no small matter to know one's  
guilt, and one's evil, and certainly nothing to  
be gained by losing sight of one's shadow.  
When we are conscious of our guilt we are  
in a more favourable position – we can at  
least hope to change and improve ourselves.*

Bungaree was a man held in a personal, social, geographical, and historic space. A human body is an object in space. People and objects in 'that' space are open to surveillance and judgment.

The differences between inanimate objects and living beings are; their voices, their gaze, character, smell, mannerisms and gait; their body language, mental and physical expression. The workshops at the end of 2014 were about the process of bringing into being an extension of the artist's practice in creating non-tangible expressions of Bungaree's personality and social being, (moving image, projection, writing, ridicule and wit, in song and music, and performance, both individually and/or in group display).

I wanted to shift the Aboriginal presence out of the ghetto of Redfern; to remind everyone, including ourselves, that Aboriginal people lived all over what is now called the Sydney basin – Aboriginal people are everywhere and Aboriginal people do everything.

Characters create an activated space, a loaded, charged space. These works in a sense are memories, the detritus, the leftovers; a fetish of Bungaree's life that are now a piece of art.

**Djon Mundine OAM**, independent Bandjalung curator, writer and activist.

List of works:

*Ballad of Bungaree*, 2012

Performed and written by Peter McKenzie,  
video 3:23 mins

*Biripi Lament*, 2015

Performed by Ldeah Flanagan, Leanne Tobin,  
Chantelle Woods (audio only) and Sandy Woods (audio  
only). Traditional chant first recorded in writing by  
L.E.Threlkeld in early 19th Century, various lengths

*Boomerang*, 2015

Performed by Bjorn Stewart (developed with the  
assistance of Andrea James), video 0:35 mins

*Bungaree Address*, 2012

Performed by Bjorn Stewart, dramaturgy by Andrea  
James, written by Djon Mundine, John Cheeseman and  
William Shakespeare, video 6:30 mins

*Bungaree's Lament*, 2015

Warwick Keen accompanied by Karla Dickens and  
Peter McKenzie, audio 5:27 mins

*Bungaree's Lament*, (instrumental) 2015

Warwick Keen, audio (various lengths)

*Bungaree's Odyssey aka Let's All Sink With The King*, 2015

Leanne Tobin, video 1:30 mins

*Drawing Bungaree*, 2015

Bjorn Stewart, video 1:38 mins

*Every Man Chooses the Path He Walks (Moonwalk)*, 2015

(BLAK) Douglas, video 0:05 mins

*I am Bungaree*, 2015

Performers: (BLAK) Douglas, Karla Dickens, Amala  
Groom, Warwick Keen, Peter McKenzie, Djon Mundine,  
Caroline Oakley, Bjorn Stewart, Leanne Tobin, Jason  
Wing, video (various lengths)

*Letter to Bungaree*, 2015

Performed by Caroline Oakley and Bjorn Stewart,  
dramaturgy by Andrea James, written by Caroline  
Oakley, video 3:22 mins

*Life Like Liquid*, 2015

Karla Dickens, animated video stills 5:27 mins

*Middle*, 2012

Daniel Boyd, video 12:00 mins

*The Colonisation will be Televised*, 2015

(After Gil Scott- Heron, 1970)  
Bjorn Stewart, audio 3:04 mins

*The Gregarious Garigal*, 2015

(BLAK) Douglas, animated video 1:20 mins

*The Spirit Remains*, 2015

Warwick Keen, animated video stills 1:08 mins

*Travelling Bungaree*, 2015

Performed by (BLAK) Douglas, Karla Dickens, Amala  
Groom, Warwick Keen, Peter McKenzie, Djon Mundine,  
Caroline Oakley, Bjorn Stewart, Leanne Tobin and Jason  
Wing. Developed with the assistance of Andrea James.,  
video 5:46 mins

*Whispering Bungaree*, 2015

Various Artists, audio (various lengths)

*Wiradjuri Chant*

(Chant of the Wiradjuri people by divine revelation)  
Amala Groom, video (various lengths)

Acknowledgements: Bungaree's Farm. This project was  
commissioned by Mosman Art Gallery in 2015.

Curator: Djon Mundine

Dramaturgy: Andrea James

Cinematography and video editing: Gotaro Uematsu

Bungaree exhibition series organisers - Djon Mundine,  
John Cheeseman and Katrina Cashman

Project Supporters: Mosman Art Gallery, Mosman  
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NSW, Australia Council for the Arts, Copyright Agency  
Cultural Fund and Arts NSW.

All copyright held by the artists and Mosman Art Gallery.

WARNING: Some artworks in this exhibition contain  
adult themes. Parental supervision is advised.

## Robert Campbell Jnr

UTS Tower Foyer

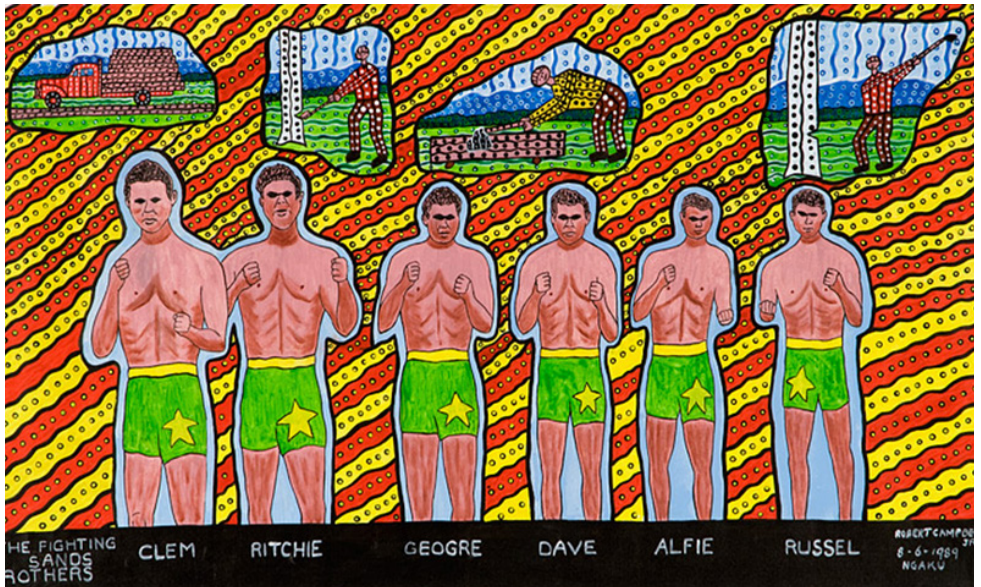
*I paint about things that touch me personally—whatever has happened in my lifetime... When we were on the mission the old people were not allowed to talk the lingo—not allowed to teach us, they were too afraid they would be sent away...*

—Robert Campbell Jnr.

Living in Their Times is a multi-disciplinary exhibition of visual art, film and digital projection that examines the spirit of the times the decade prior to this referendum. Kempsey-born Ngakku painter Robert Campbell Jnr. (now deceased), like thousands of other rural Kooris, drifted into Redfern in the 1960s. My own family came to live

in western Sydney around the same time. Inspired by the political discussions, and developments, he took to painting the things he witnessed, developing his own form of composition and optical tools to bring life to the mundane, often comical, everyday activities of the lives of his community, and their braver actions in standing up for their rights. From several generations on from the same place, award-winning UTS alumni Dunghutti filmmaker Darlene Johnson's depictions of her mother's struggles on the race divide, are part of a film program of new story tellers bringing the bittersweet, emotional times into our eyes.

Djon Mundine OAM



## Stories of Resistance: Film Showcase

University Hall

2pm–3:30pm: Shorts

### 1. *Under Skin, In Blood*

Writer/Director: Larissa Berhendt

Producer: John Harvey

Running Time: 12 minutes

A woman attempts to cling onto her memories of happier times with her husband and son before asbestos riddled their town.



### 2. *Black Chook*

Writer: Bruce Pascoe

Director: Dylan River

Producer: Belinda Mravivic

Running time: 11 minutes

They were Australia's bad days. Men killed other men and laughed. All that was left for the children of the dead was to remember, if they had strength.



### 3. *The Farm*

Writer/Director: Romaine Moreton

Producer: John Harvey

Running Time: 11 minutes

A young girl named Olivia longs to know the people who came before her, prompting landscape imbued with mystery and treasure, urging her mother Lauren to confront her own beliefs when faced with living histories woven throughout the countryside.



### 4. *Two Bob Mermaid*

Writer/Director: Darlene Johnson

Producer: Antonia Barnard

Running Time: 15 minutes

The year is 1956 and Aboriginal Australians are not allowed to swim in public swimming pools. A fair-skinned Aboriginal girl who passes off as white goes to the local pool. A film about identity.



### 5. *Sisters in the Black Movement*

Director: Lou Glover

Producer: Pauline Clague

Running Time 26 minutes

On 27 May 1967, Australian citizens voted to include Aboriginal people in the census, and to allocate Commonwealth funding towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This documentary talks to the women who were a part of the movement leading up to the referendum about their experiences at that time. The strength of the "fire in the belly" is still in these women today, as we bring them together to talk about their experiences of over thirty years ago.

## 4pm: Documentary

### *The Redfern Story*

Writer/Director: Darlene Johnson

Producer: Sue Milliken and Darlene Johnson

Running Time: 57 minutes

A tribute to the deadly trailblazers who fought for land rights and social justice and who made a lasting impact on national politics, social welfare and the Australian arts scene. The Redfern Story documents the efforts made through activism and theatre to bring the cause of indigenous people to public notice, as a first step towards gaining land rights and better treatment. With theatre, dance and song as powerful political tools, Redfern became a thriving and vibrant melting pot of politics, art and creativity.

## 6pm: Songlines:

Stories of our creation and connection

### *Footprints*

Director: Cornel Ozies

13 minutes

The Marella (Emu Man) Songline is from the Djungan Country, which starts at Gantheaume Point in Broome, and travels through the Dampier, crosses the sea to Kulumburru and on to Uluru.

### *Naji*

Director: Kimberley West

9 minutes

A story from the Bugarregarre time (the Dreamtime) when the spirit beings came out of the ocean, and woke up the silent, barren land as they moved from Dabberdabbergun in the west to the land of the rising sun, creating life and importantly, water, as they travel.

### *Ngapa Jukurrpa—A Water Songline*

Directors: Wanta Jampijimpa Patrick & Jeff Bruer

Producer: Jeff Bruer

34 minutes

Warlpiri people have unlocked the secrets of using fire to induce large quantities of rainfall, something which Western science says can't be done. Co-Director and Presenter Wanta Jampijimpa Patrick reveals the traditional knowledge behind this amazing skill.

**Pauline Clague** is a Yaegl woman. She is a film producer and was most recently the Artistic Director of the Winda Film Festival. In 2015 she was awarded the Stanley Hawes Award for Contribution to Australian Documentaries.

Living in Their Times is a free event at University of Technology Sydney on Saturday 27 May. All are welcome but RSVP is recommended.

Living In Their Times is a collaborative project by UTS ART and Jumbunna Institute, funded in part by the City of Sydney.

Project Curator: Djon Mundine OAM  
Film Curator: Pauline Clague

#LivingInTheirTimes  
@utsart @utsengage  
For project updates and RSVP visit:  
[art.uts.edu.au](http://art.uts.edu.au)

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	UTS Tower Foyer	Bon Marche Studio	University Hall	UTS Gallery
12pm				
1pm	<b>Robert Campbell Jnr Exhibition</b>	<i>Bungaree's Farm</i> (45 mins) 1:45—Intro by Djon Mundine (10 mins)		<b>Impact Exhibition</b>
2pm		<i>Bungaree's Farm</i> (45 mins)	<b>Short films: Stories of the Past</b> 2:00—Intro by Pauline Clague (10 mins) 2:15— <i>Under Skin, In Blood</i> (12 mins) 2:28— <i>Black Chook</i> (11 mins) 2:40— <i>Two Bob Memaid</i> (15 mins) 2:56— <i>Sisters in the Black Movement</i> (26 mins) 3:25—Intermission	
3pm		<i>Bungaree's Farm</i> (45 mins)		
4pm		<i>Bungaree's Farm</i> (45 mins)	<b>Documentary:</b> <i>The Redfern Story</i> (57 mins)	
5pm		<i>Bungaree's Farm</i> (45 mins)		
6pm		<i>Bungaree's Farm</i> (45 mins)	<b>Songlines: Stories of our creation and connection</b> 6:00— <i>Footprints</i> (13 mins) 6:14— <i>Naji</i> (9 mins) 6:23—Ngapa Jukurrpa— A Water Songline (34 mins)	
7pm		<i>Bungaree's Farm</i> (45 mins)		

