

The Traveller

Brylee Kerrin

I find my works is constantly evolving as I explore my life journeys and changing relationships. This understanding led to my decision to create a body of work, which reflects my personal experience of travelling. I am always on the move and each destination around Australia has made me look closely at cultural appearances from the perspective of an indigenous teen. It is not what we think but how we see the world that really interests me and interactions. I am an adventurer of my world, and my imagination has no boundaries.

My perspective greatly influenced my folio as I thought about my experiences and wondered how I could share my cultural ideas. I explored the hidden identity of places like Uluru and Pacific Island as I have travelled to both places. I sketched these memories and created postcards from exotic places. These are my dream destinations filled with iconic places. I am exploring mementoes of these destinations to conceptually develop artistic ideas. Covering a suitcase with stickers I linked colour and image to a culture suggesting the world's diverse cultures are found anywhere. I focused on the emotional experiences as I applied delicate brushstrokes and raking light across hills. I began to develop my painterly style which shows how important family and cultural connections are to me as I travel with family.

I produced a series starting with *The Traveller*, which looks closely at cultural appearances from the perspective of an indigenous teens journey and connections to different places. The open suitcase shares an iconic sun light adventure to the world that is ready to be explored and painted into the traveller's memory. The two backpackers walk down a winding road lit by golden sun rays that stretch across distant grassy fields and rolling hills. These emphasise an unforgettable dreamscape experience filled with romantic colours of greens, blues, pinks, and reds that frame the trees and long grass which lines the road. The small brushstrokes angles and warm tones help the forced perspective of the segmented sections of the road. The effect draws viewers into the landscape along the winding, making you the travellers of this place. It is not what we think but how we see the world that really interests me and interactions. I am an adventurer of my world and imagination and no are not bound by anything. So, it is these memories we take with us.

The success of *The Travellers* is in the harmonious handling of colour to create perspective just like Albert Namatjira who used purple hazes to build atmosphere. Steve Freestone control of foreground, midground and background helped me realise the forced perspective I needed to jam in my suitcase. Curtis Talws' and Kathleen Vance's delicate use of textures and miniaturised scenes were sensitively recreated in my final as I paid attention to homage to a traveling landscape. The use of stained wood and leather refined the overall aesthetic as does the scaled down, compacted landscape.

I continued to explore natural features from chasms to ghost gums observing the significances of these places. I chose to leave these untouched lands and focused on creating a snapshot of travel life behind and in front of the camera. I explored small souvenirs that could be a precious memory that becomes a treasure gifted to family. Mementoes such as like jewellery, teaspoons, tea towels souvenirs even small works of art or mini flags as these are things traveller's collect and feature in future storytelling.

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Destiny Deacon's and Tony Albert's kitsch art inspired my collection of tourist memorabilia as I designed mini polymer clay discs. I developed souvenirs using floral elements native to my travels in AUS from wattle to sturt desert pea. I continued to explore as "the tourist" as I turned to digital photography as its documentary style which helped me examine my past and present cultural memories collected from my travellers. This made me think about my dream destinations in the Asian Pacific. The icon featured were masks as these symbolise a culture. Called Ritual Designs this major promotes the idea of souveniring the ancestors of that place, they are sculptured stories of decorated ritual designs. Each plaster cast is adorned with distinct markings communication cultural empowerment with their bold high contrast red, white and black contoured shapes that draw attention to Japanese culture and respect to wise warriors which is what adventurers are as they explore the continent. The wood grain mask represents Papua New Guinea coloured mask shows detail leading to elaborate contours are both artistic and symbolic ceremonial dance and spirited forms from their environment. Ritual Designs promotes the idea of souveniring the ancestors of that place, they are sculptured stories of decorated ritual designs.

Another significant major work was Playful Spirit is a symbol of happiness and playfulness the rainbow lorikeet embodies the joyful spirit of Australia, with their bright colours and cheerful songs. Leaning forwards and head tilted its pose emphasises natural curious instincts as they love to investigate. With open blue skies this moving rainbow flies from green places to urban places she travels like a nomad. The bold contrasting painterly simplified feather shapes contour the lorikeet's body like a beautiful Erik Sendak illustration. The delicate appearance of texture from scraping paint works extremely well to emphasise the bird's character. The repeated feather tips create natural rhythms that were painstakingly cut and arranged like a puzzle. This lorikeet reflects my personal journey traveling remote to urban and helps to support my indigenous culture where many songlines are shared between generations of family members to make them wiser and more knowledge people who know where they come from. This reminds us of all our connections with a living culture.

For me making art creates opportunities to make personal connections with others and challenged them to see and understand my world and culture. When we gather to explore these works, we as artists invite our stories to be shared. Art for me is an outlet to make sense of who I am and allows no boundaries or stereotypes to impact my cultural beliefs.