

**OPEN  
BORDERS**

## DAY 2 KEYNOTE LECTURE



### Sandra Hill

Nyoongar artist Sandra Hill was born in South Perth in 1951. Hill is a Wadandi/Pibulmun, Menang Elder and Custodian. Hill's professional art career began in 1994 after receiving the Australia Council for the Arts, Creative Development Fellowship which allowed her to become a full-time artist. Her work includes painting, printmaking, 3-D installations and Public Art. Throughout her career she has continued her role as teacher, public speaker, workshop facilitator, Cultural Advisor/Consultant, and researcher.

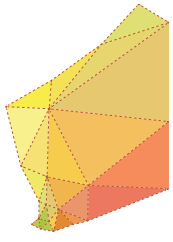
Hill's early work focuses on policies and legislation that gave the Western Australian government comprehensive control over its Aboriginal citizens. As a member of the Stolen Generation, Hill says "art became my way of dealing with the profound sense of loss and grief that my removal from family, culture and community left me with and, as an artist I made it my mission to expose the segregation, injustice, mental, physical and emotional cruelty meted out to my people since colonization". Hill's work is extremely personal and for her, it's a historical visual essay drawn from her own experiences and the injustice of living under the Native Welfare regime in Aboriginal Western Australia.

In 2010 Sandra was awarded the Creative Development Fellowship from the WA Dept. for Culture and the Arts which enabled her to continue her ongoing research in relation to, not only her mother's, but also other Aboriginal women's experiences as stolen children which resulted in the "Homemaker Series" of painted artworks which were created over the following ten years.

Hill has designed and created and collaborated on over 53 Public Art projects including the Wellington Square Stolen Generation Memorial, the BHP Children's Water Playground at Elizabeth Quay, The Yagan Commemorative Memorial, The Leach Highway Noise wall artworks, the Ngunnawal Commemorative artwork in Canberra and many more in Perth and in the South-West of WA.

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Sandra has taught art at various institutions including numerous TAFE facilities, Juvenile Detention facilities and Edith Cowan University. Hill was the Director and Lecturer of the Associate -Degree in Contemporary Aboriginal Art at Curtin University from 1999 to 2004. She holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Visual Art from Curtin University. Over the decades she sat on numerous boards, including the Western Australian Museum Aboriginal Cultural Advisory Committee, The Berndt Museum of Anthropology, Challenger TAFE and John Curtin Art Gallery. Sandra is a current member of the Cultural Advisory Committee for the Karri Karrak Corporation for the South-West. She is also a current member of the Cultural Inclusion Committee for the Shire of Bridgetown/Greenbushes and is a board member for the not-for-profit community organisation, the Undalup Association which is based in Busselton.

in 2020, two of her artworks were chosen for the largest collaborative travelling exhibition of Aboriginal Art ever curated in Australian history, “Ever - Present” features and celebrates the work of 80 Aboriginal artists from colonization to the present. “ Ever - Present” opens in Auckland, New Zealand in August and Sandra will be present for the opening and will participate in talks and workshops after the opening. The works are from the Wesfarmers Art Collection and the National Gallery of Australia’s Art Collection. Sandra’s work has been exhibited in most states throughout Australia, in the United States, Canada, New Zealand, China and Singapore.

Sandra was a finalist and the recipient of the People’s Choice Award at the 2015 at the WA Indigenous Art Awards at the Art Gallery of WA. She was one of 30 First Nation artists to be chosen for the “Defying Empire” - National Indigenous Art Triennial in 2017, which commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the 1967 Aboriginal Referendum held at the National Gallery of Australia. In May, Sandra was made the recipient of the 2023 Red Ochre Award for the Lifetime Achievement in the Arts, Culture and Community.

Hill’s work is represented in institutional collections, including that of the National Gallery of Australia-Canberra, Art Gallery of Western Australia, National Gallery of Victoria, Wesfarmers Collection, Parliament House Collection- Canberra, Parliament House Collection- Perth, Berndt Museum of Anthropology Art Collection, Holmes à Court Collection, John Curtin Collection, City of Bunbury Collection, City of Perth Collection, Claremont School of Art Collection, The Dutch Consulate, Edith Cowan University Collection, Queens University Collection of Indigenous Art, Canada, Royal Archives- The Netherlands, Western Australia Museum Collection, The Cruthers Foundation, Murdoch University Collection, private collections.

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