

WAR TROPHIES

BY CLAIRE KEARNS

WITH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & THANKS TO MY SUPERVISOR MIRIAM BANKOVVSKY & DAN & DIRK

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01 INTRODUCTION

This project explores how Indigenous perspectives transform understandings of Australian war trophies, challenging conventional narratives through custodianship, memory, and Country.



IMAGE: A WOMAN PAINTING THEY HAVE BLACK HAIR
RED JUMPER

02 OBJECTIVE

To demonstrate how Indigenous perspectives can uncover overlooked histories and reshape the interpretation of Australian war trophy collections.



IMAGE: A MULTIMEDIA ART WORK OF A WOMAN RESTING ON A
CRESENT MOON

03 METHODOLOGY

An Indigenous-led methodology combining archival research & oral histories within an ethical framework informed by Gunditjmara and Djab Wurrung knowledge.

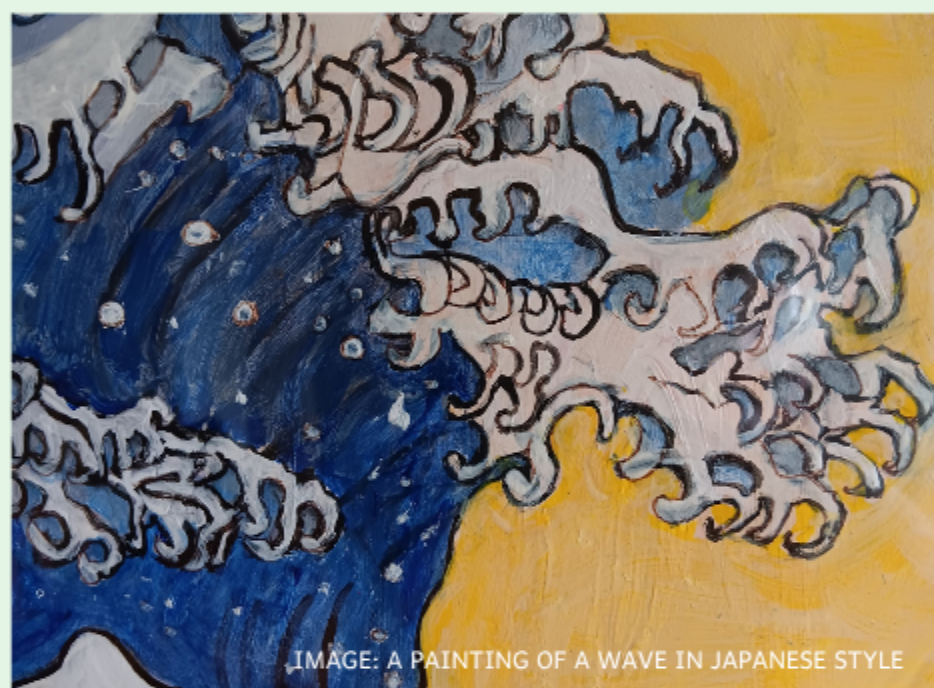


IMAGE: A PAINTING OF A WAVE IN JAPANESE STYLE

04 RESULTS

- Indigenous perspectives reshape interpretations of war trophies.
- Colonial silences are identified and critically examined.
- New approaches to military heritage and remembrance are proposed.



IMAGE: A WOMAN DANCING THROUGH THE FALLING RAIN

05 ANALYSIS

Compares institutional narratives with Indigenous and family perspectives.

- Analyses archival records & oral histories through an Indigenous framework.
- Explores how collecting practices shaped national memory and excluded Indigenous voices.



IMAGE: NATIVE GRASS TREES

06 CONCLUSION

This research demonstrates the value of Indigenous methodologies in reshaping military history, museum practice, and national remembrance.



IMAGE: A WOMAN WITH BLACK HAIR AND A RED JUMPER PAINTING AND LOOKING AT THE CAMERA THEY ARE PAINTING A BLUE
SKY ON AN ARTIST'S VISUAL JOURNAL THEY ARE SEATED AT A WOODEN TABLE

REFERENCES

- Linda Tuhiwai Smith. Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples. 3rd ed. London: Zed Books, 2021.
- AIATSIS. AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research. Canberra: AIATSIS, 2020.