

National Cultural Policy Submission

1467924

Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am a painter with a background in Archaeology and history. I live in regional Western Australia. I tick no other boxes. I am white middle aged and female of convict and migrant heritage. I believe the box ticking has gone too far in its efforts to right the past management of the arts through a white male lens- the irony being that I would have been overlooked then and still don't tick a box now. In short I find the current Australian arts policies short sighted, heavily politicised with little space for alternative viewpoints e.g the recent cancellations of Pro Palestinian voices, expectations of 'trauma stories' to validate creative works in grant applications.

Specific points I would make are as follows:

- 1) the policies terminology is all over the place, do you mean the Arts, cultural activity or creative activity? Is the policy advocating for culture or for the arts? And yes they are separate because Art has existed before and beyond Culture which is defined as by the ABS ' a shared sense of meaning that determines a group's way of life' . It is an anthropological term that has been creeping into the vernacular for the Arts and is currently guiding policy and politics towards hegemony.
- 2) where are the Visual Arts in this policy?
- 3) the term 'story' has been overused and is drowning out how to look and engage in the Visual Arts.
- 4) digital technologies are not changing all creative work. The policy should make space and plan for this, digital tech moves fast and is ephemeral, it would be unwise to not support outside of digital space.
- 5) Pillar 3 the most important support should be for strong legal support and action on Copyright Protections. Big tech make money from Ai, the Arts industry will not.