

National Cultural Policy Submission

1466051

Public and anonymous



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Don't put 'First Nations' first. Put all Australian artists first, regardless of identity, background, sexual orientation, age, eye colour, weight, or whatever meaningless identifier that has nothing to do with the work we do. We create. Period.

All artists express, feel, respond, get mad, get excited, and channel all that energy into their work. The more seamless the pathway to completion as well as contact with audiences in Australia and around the globe, the better. We hope our work will say something meaningful about ourselves, our thoughts, our lives, our emotions, our times to generations and anthropologists decades and centuries to come. Analysis is often not useful (as in competing for funds) because the 'cultural police' could have something different, adverse and hence reject the proposition. Digital platforms make it easier, cheaper to distribute and disseminate such works whereas of course, real-life sculptures, paintings, plays and dance need to be performed or displayed in house, in person.

The National Cultural Policy ought to search for the boldest ideas, regardless of an artist's background or cultural heritage. If they have something powerful, poignant, stinging, biting, loving to say about something, give them the biggest amplified microphone on the planet! Let not past hatreds, perceived biased mumblings or even cultural myopia stop any artist from commenting, reflecting, reacting and creating new works which may offend, outrage, dismay, unhinge a small group of people. That's the ultimate role of the artist: to go anywhere, everywhere without restraint, censorship, government interference or group nay-sayers.

Think Shakespeare, Da Vinci and Sophocles. Think of the role of musicians, screen producers, actors, dancers, painters making works like Guernica or Strange Fruit.

Think Pussy Riot! Pissed Christ, Bill Henson, Ai Wei Wei, Salman Rushdie - any work of art that reveals, lift the human spirit or condemns the autocracy of the society from which is created are not only useful but vital to the human race. Let not be dissuaded by D.E.I. and 'wokeness'. Let individuals be individuals: they represent their works, not their country, people nor even their parents - they are the majority and minority of one. And one vision is enough.

Think Nelson Mandela, think Bob Geldof, think Anne Frank. Passion thrusts our work into the public sphere but it's the individual thoughts, ideas, emotions expressed through a love song, a dance move, a ten-hour documentary or opera that is important to us as humans. Even 'Australianness' is unimportant: we can make stories in outer space, inner space or another space like Middle Earth or the Upside Down! We are a nation of mostly cohesive immigrants and long-time inhabitants and we live in the same 21st Century: our heritage and our bloodlines are not as important as our individual capabilities to think of something new, different and daring.

Therefore, support each artist as individuals, regardless of Aboriginality or cultural \,appropriateness\,. Even visitors like Ted Kotcheff or Mark Twain can say something profound about our country and ourselves!