

National Cultural Policy Submission

Anonymous

Submitted: As an artist

Please tell us how each of the 5 pillars are important to you and your practice and why. Feel free to respond to any or all that are applicable to you:

Strong Institutions

Unfortunately our industry is corrupt and does not have any accountability. There is no HR, nowhere to turn, when you are discriminated against or bullied, or when your rights have been violated. Because most artists are not well off financially, and are very time poor, they are extremely vulnerable to this kind of exploitation. In my 10+ years in the industry I am disgusted by what I have seen. The industry is small where everyone knows everyone, and if someone who holds power decides you are to be blacklisted, it doesn't matter how good your art is, it's near impossible to make any inroads and to reach larger audiences. The people in power protect themselves and they protect those who are happy to follow their agenda. If you look at literature for example, there are many success stories in Australia, but when those authors hit international markets, near none of them get anywhere, because the books being praised and published are only praised and published because those in power have decided that the writer follows the rules and as such should be rewarded with publication. Speaking your mind is extremely dangerous if it speaks truths like this submission. Because of this, our industry is stale and often artists who want to be revolutionary and want things to advance are too afraid to do so and often suffer from health issues as a consequence of the way they are treated. Issues such as plagiarism and illegal or inappropriate behaviour that would breach the Fair Work Act are swept to one side if the person in question is making money for others and for the industry. So, we end up with a culture of puppets. We really ought to be ashamed. Your only hope is to go overseas.