

National Cultural Policy Submission

Anonymous

Submitted: As an artist

What challenges and opportunities do you see in the pillar or pillars most relevant to you?

A Place for Every Story

I am not a commercial artist; my contributions may not enable me to make a living. I feel like I have a story to tell and need to be supported to do so.

The Centrality of the Artist

This sounds egotistical, but an artist must be freed from the financial grind in order to perfect their craft. They must also be connected to a community of artists, as well as their community.

Strong Institutions

By strong institutions I understand you to mean cultural institutions that are not solely driven by profit. I mean libraries, universities, and perhaps even the democratic control of social media.

Reaching the Audience

As a comic artist I have a great difficulty reaching an audience without a vibrant publishing industry.

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:

First Nations

I am not a first nations artist, but cannot deny the importance of first nations art and culture to the maturity and cultural life of this country, and the world.

Reaching the Audience

I suffer from the lack of a sophisticated audience for mature graphic storytelling. I have been making comics since 1984 and have only recently seen any Australian comics reviewed in newspapers with any seriousness. The lack of an audience, or a way to get my work to its, perhaps small, audience has stilled my voice.

Are there any other things that you would like to see in a National Cultural Policy?

Because of trauma and disability, I have used art as therapy, barter, vengeance, flirtation, complaint, apologia, gift, admonishment, but never been able to make a living. I have been 'unemployed' for much of my artistic life. A UBI or artists income would have saved me much in terms of homelessness and mental illness.