

# Butu Wargun: Jason Wing



# Concept

*Butu Wargun*: JASON WING



# Connect

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## CULTURAL/ SUBJECTIVE/ ARTWORK/ WORLD/ AUDIENCE

Butu Wargun takes you on a journey of imagination and cultural discovery. This large-scale mural work is stenciled with symbolism that connect to the history of the site but also allow you to bring your own experiences and cultural insights to a personal interpretation.

Consider your own personal and cultural background. Where are you from? What do the motifs remind you of? What can you see, hear and feel as you journey through the space? Whether you experience the work digitally or in person, what does it make you reflect on as you connect with this work?



# Inform

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## STRUCTURAL/ ARTWORK

Butu Wargun is a significantly large-scale, outdoor mural work that dominates the retaining wall on the side of the M5 motorway and spills out over other buildings and pathways. It is set between Bexley North and Beverly Hills.

Subject matter is both representational and semi abstract against the highly abstract expressive nature of the background. Figures are transparent and ghostlike, flying in chaotic formations that evoke a battle. The sheer scale of the work and the fact that it spills out over other buildings as well as the footpath make it an unavoidable and immersive artwork.

Butu Wargun celebrates Pemulwuy the Rainbow Warrior and his war of resistance against colonial settlers. Pemulwuy was a Bidjigal man of the Eora nation and one of the most significant activists and political figures in the late 18th century because he led the Aboriginal campaign of resistance. He did this by using the Cooks River as a major artery for connecting clans and transporting warriors - an incredibly important site-specific history showing this Bidjigal hero in context. The concept is of Pemulwuy 'popping up' unexpectedly and being everywhere at once.

# Pemulwuy

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Pemulwuy was an Aboriginal resistance fighter who led warriors to battle the colonising forces.

Legend has it that he transformed into a crow to escape incarceration.

Here he is depicted as part man, part crow.



# Pemulwuy

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Notice how Pemulwuy is leading the bird warriors into battle? What makes us think this?

What does their formation remind us of?

Why do you think some of the bird figures are transparent?



# Pemulwuy

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<https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/pemulwuy>



# Pemulwuy

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What is abstract expressionism?

What is graffiti?

How is this work similar?





# Pemulwuy

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What qualities does this work have that allow the use of the word dynamic to describe it?

Think about colour, paint application, movement etc



# Pemulwuy

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This image shows less than half the mural and gives an indication of the large-scale nature of the work.

It also shows the surrounding site.



# Pemulwuy

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