

Canal to Creek

WestConnex

Transurban

THE WESTCONNEX PUBLIC ART PROGRAM



VADEA
NSW

VISUAL ARTS & DESIGN
EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

ADAM KING

PEMULWUY AND ABORIGINAL SYDNEY | STAGE 4 WORKSHEET

Pemulwuy and Aboriginal Sydney, is a series of steel sculptures that feature 207 cut-out silhouettes of Aboriginal peoples significant in history and today. One of these people is Bidjigal man, Pemulwuy, who led coordinated resistance campaigns against the British colony until his assassination in 1802. The artwork can be seen as an exploration and celebration of the ongoing survival of Aboriginal peoples in this area and their continued connection to country.



CRITICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION

VOCABULARY - silhouette, connection to country, contested land, Aboriginal peoples, colonising

FOCUS ON PRACTICE

1. Look closely at the steel Adam King has used to create ***Pemulwuy and Aboriginal Sydney***. Brainstorm a list of adjectives or describing words that you would use to explain the look and feel of the material.

2. ***Pemulwuy and Aboriginal Sydney*** celebrates the endurance of Aboriginal peoples and cultures. Explain why you think the artist has chosen to use this material to explore this idea.

INVESTIGATION QUESTIONS - CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

3. The artworks that artists make are influenced by the world around them. With a peer or your class, discuss some of the ideas, experiences, people and/or events that you think inspired Adam King to make ***Pemulwuy and Aboriginal Sydney***. List points from your discussion below:

4. ***Pemulwuy and Aboriginal Sydney*** is located at St Peters Interchange. Consider how members of the public would usually interact with this site. Discuss your ideas with a peer or write notes in the space below.

5. Explain how audiences' experiences of **Pemulwuy and Aboriginal Sydney** could change the way they interact with and understand this particular location in Sydney.

ARTMAKING TASK

Silhouette Cut-Outs

Adam King remembers and celebrates Aboriginal peoples by featuring their profiles on his steel sculptures. Explore Adam King's practice by creating your own series of silhouette cut-outs of friends or family members.

1. Who will you include in your artwork? Collect or take photographs of three profiles of family members, friends or people who play a significant role in your life. Try to think of a theme to connect the individuals you choose (e.g. you might select your sister, mother and grandmother to capture the profiles of three generations of women in your family).



EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Practice your portraiture drawing skills by completing a series of sketches of your chosen profiles. Research and experiment with a range of techniques, e.g. blind contour drawings and using a grid to achieve proportion.

2. Decide how you will arrange your profiles along a narrow sheet of heavy paper or card. Will your profiles be displayed horizontally or vertically?
3. Draw or trace your chosen profiles on to your card. *Tip: Cut out the profiles from photographs and use these as a template to trace on to your card.*
4. Cut the profiles out with a pair of scissors or a stencil knife on a cutting mat.
5. Display your artwork individually or with those of your peers to create a collaborative exhibit. Some questions to consider when you present your work include:
 - How will I display my artwork? E.g. mounted on a wall, free-standing or suspended from a string?
 - Will light and shadow feature in my display? Is there an opportunity for light to pass through your profile to cast a shadow?
6. Write a short artist statement to accompany your profiles. Include an explanation of why you have chosen to capture the person featured in your artwork.