

# Romeo Atra

## Walanga Muru (Follow your path)

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### REFLECTION STATEMENT

*Walanga Muru* translates to 'Follow your path' in the dialect of the Gadigal people who occupied the Sydney Cove area where the QVB was built.

My conceptual focus depicts references of historical beauty that are present in our modern world. My concept also acknowledges the Gadigal's scarce naked landscape, which encompasses breathtaking landscapes and abundant biodiversity that indigenous peoples have nurtured and protected for generations. This landscape is framed by golden sandstone formations that are characteristic of the Sydney Cove area. Sandstone is a prominent feature of the QVB and in my body of work the images of sandstone link the landscape and the QVB architecture. The beauty of the QVB that is represented in one painting displays surface beauty whilst also symbolising colonialism and the new beginnings of modern Australia.

My body of work aims to showcase the beauty of the Australian landscape by referencing the natural resource of sandstone and the craftsmanship that is evident in our unique colonial architecture. Additionally, the images of two figures casting their gaze upon the QVB building and the landscape embodies a perspective that is connected to the land's innate splendour that has now been tamed and reshaped by the forces of colonisation, forever altering its original essence. These figures serve as a poignant reminder of the complex interplay between history, beauty, and the ever-evolving landscapes. This interplay holds the narratives of both sorrow and transformation. The figures' presence evokes contemplation about the significance of heritage and the delicate balance between progress and preservation.



