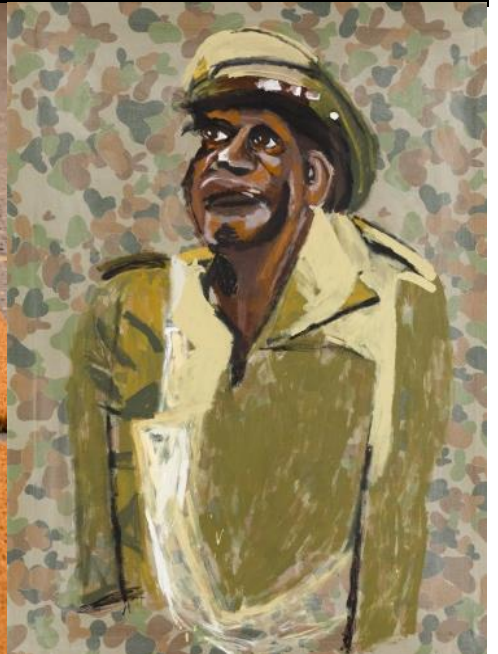




MEDIA RELEASE

Hazelhurst

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MEDIA RELEASE

Weapons for the soldier

PROTECTING COUNTRY, CULTURE AND FAMILY

SOME OF AUSTRALIA'S MOST IMPORTANT INDIGENOUS AND NON-INDIGENOUS ARTISTS RESPOND TO THEMES OF PROTECTING COUNTRY FOR NEW GROUND-BREAKING EXHIBITION

The Tjilpies (senior men) from the APY Lands have spent their lives protecting Tjukurpa (Culture), Country and family. For Anangu this is the most important thing. From working with other artists we have found that there is common ground here. Connection to country and protecting country is something that artists from all over Australia make work and share stories about. This has become the heart of the project. **Frank Young, Chairman APY Council**

Sydney: Hazelhurst Arts Centre will hold a major and ambitious exhibition, ***Weapons for the soldier***, which will bring together 41 important Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists in Australia who have made new work to examine complex and varied responses to weaponry, warfare, and their connection to protecting land and country. ***Weapons for the soldier*** is the first Anangu-curated exhibition involving non-Indigenous artists.

Twenty seven of the artists are from the art centres of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands, with 14 invited artists: these are some of Australia's most important Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists. ***Weapons for the soldier*** will foster dialogue around multi-geographical and multigenerational fights for land, Country and freedom experienced by Australians, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, as well as the Indigenous experience in Australian military history.

This groundbreaking project was initiated by the young men of the APY Lands and led by Vincent Namatjira along with Aaron Ken, Derek Thompson, Anwar Young and Kamurin Young who have been supported by senior artists Willy Kaika Burton, Ray Ken, Peter Mungkuri, Mumu Mike Williams and Frank Young.

Weapons for the Anangu soldier is a subject that senior APY artist Ray Ken has explored in his paintings throughout his career. With his permission and encouragement, along with the support of other senior men who often paint weapons and stories of conflict, these younger men explore what it means to be a soldier today and to fight in order to protect your land and culture.

For this exhibition, Vincent and the young men connected with other Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists who they saw as peers. They decided to work on a project where they could connect with artists who have inspired them, on their terms, in a process where their commitment to cultural protocol is maintained. Artists **Abdul Abdullah, Tony Albert, Brook Andrew, Lionel Bawden, George Gittoes, Shaun Gladwell, Richard Lewer, Uncle Charles 'Chicka' Madden and Jonathan Jones, Danie Mellor, Steaphan Paton, Ben Quilty, Reko Rennie, Greg Semu and Alex Seton** were invited to participate in the project.

Vincent and the young men have each examined war themes in their work to date: Vincent painting oft-overlooked Indigenous soldiers and Anwar and Kamurin Young committed to developing high level expertise in traditional weapons and working with other young men across the Lands to create a new iteration of the ongoing Kulata Tjuta [Many Spears] project which was initiated by senior artists Willy Kaika Burton, Kunmanara (Hector) Burton, Ray Ken, Kunmanara (Barney) Wangin, Mick Wikilyiri and Frank Young in 2010.

Weapons for the soldier is an opportunity to hear Indigenous voices and to honour the male elders of the APY Lands. It is also an opportunity to honour the distinct position of Indigenous people within Australia who have long fought to maintain cultural strength and pride.



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Belinda Hanrahan, Director, Hazelhurst Arts Centre said *this is an ambitious and important exhibition for Hazelhurst and we are pleased to be able to showcase new works by some of Australia's most important Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists. The ambitious scale of Weapons for the soldier follows on from the success of the major APY Lands project held at Hazelhurst in 2016, Nganampa Kilipil: Our Stars.*

Weapons for the soldier

Protecting Country, culture and family

A curatorial project initiated by the young men of the APY Lands, Vincent Namatjira, Aaron Ken, Derek Jungarrayi Thompson, Anwar Young and Kamurin Young with support from senior artists Willy Kaika Burton, Ray Ken, Peter Mungkuri, Mumu Mike Williams and Frank Young.

APY Lands Artists: Alec Baker | Eric Barney | Willy Kaika Burton | Pepai Jangala Carroll | Taylor Cooper | Sammy Dodd | Witjiti George | Rupert Jack | Kunmanara (Brenton) Ken | Ray Ken | Hector Mitakiki | Junior Mitakiki | Kamarin Mitakiki | Kunmanara (Willy Muntjantji) Martin | Peter Mungkuri | Vincent Namatjira | Kunmanara (Jimmy) Pompey | Keith Stevens | Derek Jungarrayi Thompson | Thomas Ilytjari Tjilya | Bernard Tjalkuri | Ginger Wikilyiri | Mick Wikilyiri | Mumu Mike Williams | Anwar Young | Frank Young | Kamurin Young | Young men of Amata

Invited Artists: Abdul Abdullah | Tony Albert | Brook Andrew | Lionel Bawden | George Gittoes | Shaun Gladwell | Richard Lewer | Uncle Charles 'Chicka' Madden and Jonathan Jones | Danie Mellor | Steaphan Paton | Ben Quilty | Reko Rennie | Greg Semu | Alex Seton

EXHIBITION DETAILS:

Weapons for the soldier

Hazelhurst Arts Centre

782 Kingsway, Gymea

Opens 10am Sunday 11 November, 2018

The official opening will be held at Hazelhurst on **Sunday 11 November 2018**, marking the 100th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914–18). Official proceedings will begin at 10:30am.

The exhibition continues until Sunday 3 February 2019 before travelling to Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs from 1 March to 22 April 2019.

Weapons for the soldier has been developed by the artists of the APY Lands and the APY Art Centre Collective in partnership with Hazelhurst Arts Centre.

Weapons for the soldier has been funded by the Anzac Centenary Arts and Culture Fund, Australia Council for the Arts, Arts SA and the Gordon Darling Foundation.

For further information please contact:

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IMAGE CREDITS: From top left to right: Alec Baker *Ngura (Country)* 2018, acrylic on linen, 243 x 198 cm, courtesy Iwantja Arts; Tony Albert with Vincent Namatjira *Australia's Most Wanted Armed with a Paintbrush* 2018, archival pigment print on paper, 100 x 100 cm, courtesy Sullivan + Strumpf; Uncle Charles 'Chicka' Madden with Jonathan Jones *Gadigal shields* 2017-2018, wood, ochre with acrylic paint, Australian Museum Collection; Ray Ken *Weapons for the soldier* 2018, acrylic on linen, 300 x 200 cm, courtesy Tjala Arts; Kamurin Young *Wati Warmala (Young Men's Army)* 2018 (detail), archival inkjet print, 50 x 35 cm, courtesy Tjala Arts; Lionel Bawden, *GROUNDWORK* 2018 (detail), paint/ink on doormats, 400 x 60 cm, courtesy Karen Woodbury Fine Art and Arterreal Gallery; Vincent Namatjira *Unknown soldier* 2018, acrylic on army surplus material, 91 x 122 cm, courtesy Iwantja Arts.