



Confronting our brutal and bloody past

Description



Confronting our bloody past: *The Missing*, by artist Julie Gough, Bett Gallery, Hobart.

Carol Altmann – The Terrier

I wasn't planning a post tonight, but today I saw an exhibition by Tasmanian-based artist Julie Gough about the attempted annihilation of Aboriginal Tasmanians/Palawa – an attempt which, as we know, was carried across Bass Strait to the colonial invasion of south-west Victoria, our home.

The murders. The kidnaps. The thefts. The near annihilation. Julie's work is sobering and absolutely heartbreaking.

And I came away with one repetitive thought: what can I do?

What can I do?

One thing I can do is to use what I know best – words – to tell indigenous stories from south-west Victoria and to help illuminate our real history, not the white-washed version I grew up with.

South-west Victoria is saturated with rich indigenous stories, both contemporary and past.

I recently applied for some funding to help me do this by bringing others into The Terrier to help tell these stories.

I am still waiting to hear how my application has gone – fingers crossed – but with or without this

support, this is one path The Terrier will be taking as it heads into its second year.

On we go.

Category

1. Opinion

Tags

1. artist
2. Indigenous
3. indigenous history
4. Julia Gough
5. massacre
6. south-west victoria
7. Tasmania

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