

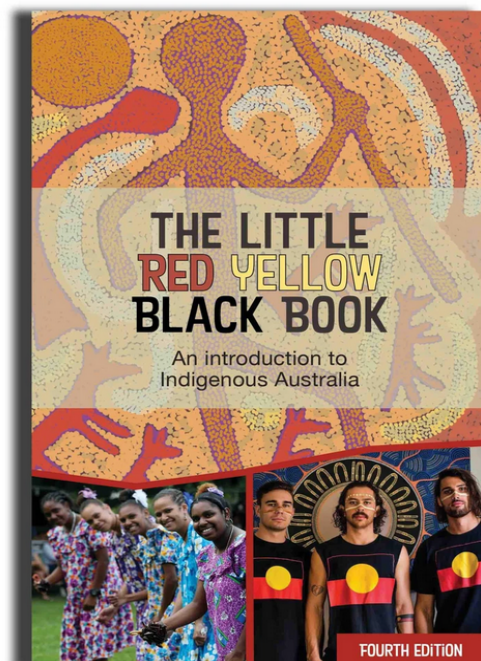
Education Through Empowerment

For hundreds of years, First Nations communities have battled marginalisation and lack of representation in a range of different contexts. Despite the inclusive considerations that are made in modern Australia traditional custodians of the land are forced to conform to Western societal expectations. When challenged to represent the concept of **evolving identity through community engagement** within the architectural realm, it is important to acknowledge that the perspective and pre-conceived ideas one has coming from a non-indigenous background may not serve the First Nation identity and any model that is constructed may fall into the historically devastating narrative of European influence assuming leadership and superiority over the native population.

It is essential that any project surrounding First Nation culture has **extensive community engagement and collaboration** to ensure needs are being met and **respectful practice** is achieved. This can be contextualised in both educational and professional settings. Understand your personal responsibilities and limitations as an someone with a lack of lived experience within the culture and consider the contribution that Westernisation has had in creating systemic oppression and restriction in expression. From here, explore how **personal and community cultural empowerment evolves all identities**, regardless of background. How can an **impermanent area of expression** be constructed? How can this space **promote collaboration and locality**, while also **respecting and representing cultural and geographical identity**?



“How do you empower that which you do not recognise?”
- United Nations



Introduction to First Nation culture from their perspective

Highlights core values and sheds light on unresolved injustices in modern Australia



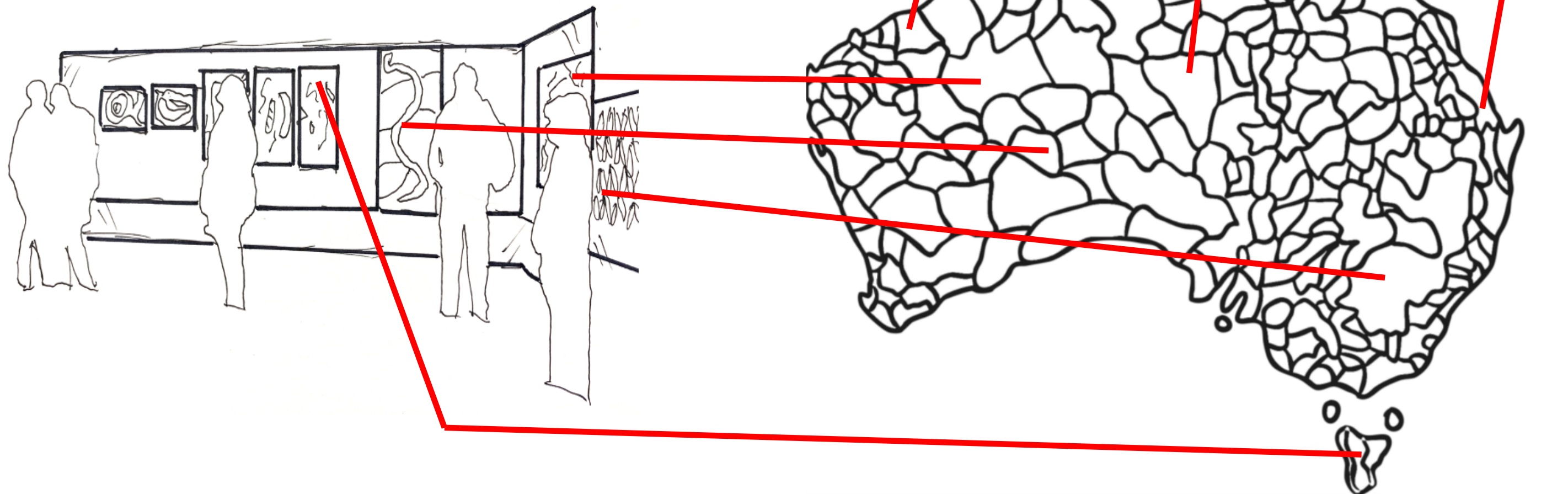
Ancient Land - Scott Leggo:
Appreciation of what naturally exists

Restructuring Existing Concepts

Consider the concept of a gallery display. A common practice for showcasing items of cultural significance.

Is it possible that this **creates a divide** between an item, its geographical origin and its community?
Is identity lost through the **generalisation of regionality**?

How damaging is it for a population to have symbolic artifacts taken without permission? Is it appropriate for a culture and its history to be **represented through static objects**?



Process of Empowerment

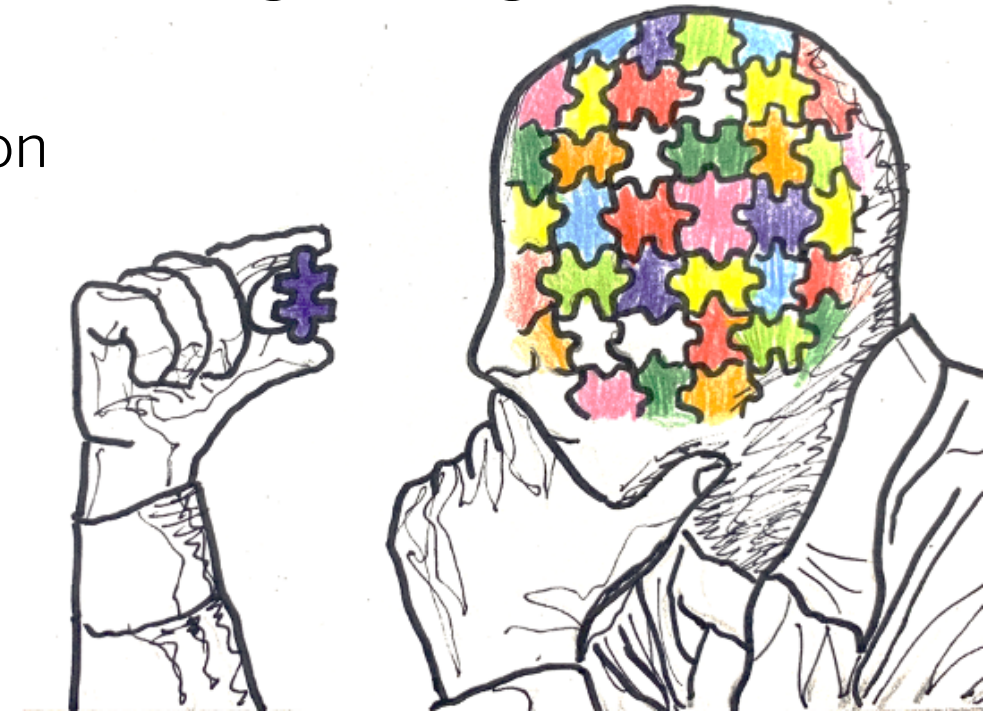
Empowerment:

Process of becoming **stronger** and more **confident** in controlling one's life and claiming one's rights.

The basis to any **community engagement and resilience** is having a strong sense of self. **Personal empowerment** may involve self analysis, consideration of values, beliefs, recognition of strengths and weaknesses.

A sadly common issue First Nations people face is the effects of **intergenerational trauma**. While it is still being researched, there are benefits in promotion of **cultural identity, connection to country** and **community participation**

Once a new found sense of self is discovered, one can positively **contribute** and **engage with their community**.



Impermanent Area of Expression

Does it **serve** the community?

Is it **vernacular** of the area?

Is it capable of representing a **range of mediums**?

Does it involve the **community** in its **design, construction** and **implementation**?

