ARTSPACE

ARCHIVE CAPSULE
KOORI ART '84 REVISITED

‘Us Koori artists were working to change perceptions of Aboriginal Art in New South Wales. Aboriginal art is not primitive or static, it is evolving.’ – Uncle Jeffrey Samuels

Koori Art ‘84 was a landmark exhibition held at Artspace’s Randle Street premises in Surry Hills, in 1984. Curated by Tim and Vivien Johnson, the exhibition brought together 23 First Nations artists and collectives working across various mediums, styles and career stages to question and reshape narratives around contemporary Aboriginal art. In particular, *Koori Art ‘84* challenged prevailing assumptions about Aboriginal identity, creating an opportunity for Aboriginal artists working in urban contexts to contest stereotypes about what constitutes ‘authentic’ Aboriginal art.

Archive Capsule: Koori Art ’84 Revisited returns to this pivotal moment to examine the exhibition’s role in changing perceptions around identity, representation, and self-determination. Displaying material from Artspace’s Franco Belgiorno-Nettis Archive, including photographs, catalogues, posters, and production notes, the capsule shows the significance of *Koori Art ’84* within the recognition of contemporary Aboriginal art.

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