



# Blak Douglas

## aka Adam Hill

# Art Workshop

*"...your informative, engaging and inspirational workshop has left an important imprint on their future understanding and importance of Indigenous culture, art and history. There was a lot of reflection, discussion and curiosity in our classroom the following day which has enabled us to build on experience we shared with you."*

– Nadia Maljkovic, Amity College

*"Just wanted to thank you for a fantastic workshop... Adam enlightened the students on many issues that some of them would have little knowledge or experience with"*

– Amanda Caines and Sarah Culligan, St. John Bosco College, Engadine.

### **THE PERFORMER**

Blak Douglas is a multi – skilled Aboriginal artist descending from the Dhungatti peoples of Kempsey (Mid - North Coast NSW). Blak also works as a graphic designer, exhibiting painter, cartoonist and illustrator and MCee. Blak has earned respect as a player of the Yidaki (didgeridoo) and takes pride in the teachings of his cultural mentors: the Yolngu of Nth East Arnhem Land. With a keen sense of humour and a passionate advocacy for social justice, the two combine regularly and are strikingly evident in his visual art and his public performance.

As a performer of Yidaki, Blak has toured extensively with a variety of performers and dancers, touring to Italy, Japan, Canada, Vietnam, South America, Korea, the Philippines and the South Pacific. Blak has collaborated extensively with the likes of Mathew Doyle, Albert David (Bangarra), Paul Jarman (Sirrocco / Gondwana Choir) and Gavin Jones ([Dec.] Deadlys). Locally, Blak has played before Madiba (Nelson) Mandela, on Australian Idol and the Rugby World Cup opening ceremony and with Cristine Anu, Peter Sculthorpe and Jane Rutter.

Schooled in Penrith NSW, Blak then studied Graphic Design at UWS Nepean. In Visual Arts he emerged through Boomalli Aboriginal Artists. He has staged numerous solo exhibitions and participated in many group shows both here and abroad. Blak has consistently been a finalist in the Parliament of NSW Aboriginal Art Prize and the Telstra Aboriginal Art Award. Blak's works are collected by institutions both nationally and internationally including The National Gallery of Australia and the Aboriginal Art Museum of Utrecht (Netherlands). In 2015 Blak Douglas was a finalist in the Archibald Prize with his portrait of Uncle Max Eulo titled 'Smoke and Mirrors'.

### **WORKSHOPS – Junior High School and Senior High School Versions Available**

In both workshops, students begin with an exciting & challenging auditory drawing exercise. Blak explains his learnings of the Yidaki (didgeridoo) and the complex playing styles of its traditional custodians. The students then 'translate' these sounds onto paper, thus creating a quick colourful abstract artwork. Blak then presents a PPT presentation outlining his emergence into art from humble beginnings and outlines his position in the world of urban Aboriginal art and what constitutes being an 'Contemporary' artist today.

**Junior Workshop:** the students produce a depiction of their 'place' through referencing the familiar styles of the central- western desert Anangu art. Students then engage in a fun drawing activity utilising their own shoe to design their 'mark' on history.

**Senior Workshop:** Blak familiarises the students with the origins of POP ART and with reference to his current style, the students create a POP drawing focused on issues either effecting their world, or, contexts influencing & inspiring them. This presentation is appropriate for senior students (Years 10-12) due to the factual / political nature of the content.

### **WORKSHOP REQUIREMENTS**

Please provide smartboard / data projector, whiteboard and laptop / computer with a USB port. Students will need A3 paper and 3 x coloured crayons or pencils. Please ensure all equipment is set up and working prior to Adam's visit. The workshop relies on quality projection equipment, suitable drawing environment and is strictly 90mins duration.

**Duration: 90 minutes**  
**Suitability: Years 7-12 – junior and senior sessions**  
**Numbers: 2 classes - Maximum of 50 students**  
**Cost: \$560.00 gst n/a**