

# 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

Adam Hill is a multi – skilled Aboriginal artist descending from the Dhungatti peoples of Kempsey (North Coast NSW). Adam also works as a graphic designer, exhibiting painter, cartoonist and illustrator and MCee. Adam 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, Adam has toured extensively with a variety of performers and dancers. Touring to Italy, Japan, Canada, Vietnam, South America, Korea, the Phillipines and South Pacific. Adam has collaborated extensively with the likes of Albert David (Bangarra), Paul Jarman (Sirrocco / Gondwana Choir) and Gavin Jones (Deadlys). Locally, Adam has played before Madiba (Nelson) Mandela, on Australian Idol and the Rugby World Cup opening ceremony.

Schooled in Penrith NSW, Adam then studied Graphic Design at UWS Nepean. In Visual Arts he gained acclaim through Boomalli Aboriginal Artists. He has staged numerous solo exhibitions and participated in many group shows both here and abroad. Adam has consistently been a finalist in the likes of the Parliament of NSW Aboriginal Art Prize and Tesltra Aboriginal Art Award. Adams 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 Adam aka Blak Douglas was a finalist in the Archibald Prize with his portrait 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. Adam explains the origin 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. Adam then presents a comprehensive PPT presentation outlining his stance in the world of urban Aboriginal art and what constitutes being an artist today.

In the **Junior Workshop**, the students produce a depiction of their ‘place’ through referencing the familiar styles of the central- western desert Anangu art. Adam explains concepts as revealed to him by his mentors from Papunya and students create their own interpretation of landscape familiar to them.

In the **Senior Workshop**, Adam familiarises the students with the origins of POP ART and with reference to his current style, the students create a POP drawing focussed on issues either effecting their world, or, contexts influencing & inspiring them. This presentation is appropriate for senior students due to the factual / political nature of the content.

## 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 show is reliant on good quality projected images.

**Duration: 90 minutes**  
**Suitability: Years 7-12 – junior and senior sessions**  
**Numbers: 2 classes - Maximum of 60 students**  
**Cost: \$450.00 gst n/a**