

biennaleofsydney

Kaylene Whiskey

Kaylene TV, 2023

Mixed media installation

Courtesy of the artist, Iwantja Arts and Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery

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Commissioned by the Biennale of Sydney and the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain with generous assistance from the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body.

Education Resource (K-6)



*Kaylene Whiskey working in the Iwantja Arts studio, Indulkana SA
Courtesy of the artist and Iwantja Arts. Photo: Iwantja Arts*



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Overview

Each of Kaylene Whiskey's paintings, uniquely coloured and featuring a two-dimensional comic style alongside the 'dot' iconography of the Central Desert, is a celebration of her Anangu culture. As she works, Whiskey listens to rock 'n' roll, country and pop music, while the TV plays films or NITV (the National Indigenous Television channel) in the background, all of which she absorbs into a uniquely joyful body of work.

Whiskey moves effortlessly between comics, canvas, Saturday morning cartoons, and landscape with a versatility that is particularly striking in *Kaylene TV*. Newly commissioned for the Biennale of Sydney, it is the first of her works produced on such a large scale. Inviting audiences into a giant TV, the work points to how media and entertainment influence our contemporary, post-television-era lives.

Featuring human-size cut-outs of icons such as singers Cher and Dolly Parton, as well as Whiskey's own hybrid Black superheroes, kungka kunpu (strong women), in an ensemble cast, *Kaylene TV* is singularly delightful. At a time when all screens seem to be overflowing with stories of crisis, corruption and chaos, Whiskey's insight into her own sparkling world, lived proudly on Country, makes space for a playfulness and spirit.



*Kaylene Whiskey and her work, taken on Country in Indulkana SA.
Courtesy of the artist and Iwantja Arts. Photo: Iwantja Arts*



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Discussion Questions



“Whiskey has a distinct visual style.”

How would you describe the **colours** and **patterns** she uses?
What does it **remind you** of?
How does it make **you feel**?
In what ways is it **similar to other First Nations art** you may have seen? In what ways is it **different**?

“Whiskey TV is a large scale work that audiences can interact with and explore.”

*Kaylene Whiskey working in the Iwantja Arts studio, Indulkana SA
Courtesy of the artist and Iwantja Arts. Photo: Iwantja Arts*

How would this change the **audience's experience** of the work compared to a painting?
What might we call this **type of art**?
What are the **advantages** of art that the audience can **touch and experience close up**?
What are some of the **challenges** this might create for **artists and galleries**?

Practical Activities

Think of some of your inspirations. They could be people you know, family members, celebrities, characters etc. Choose people who would never likely meet in real life. Draw them together interacting. Use a lot of colour to create a sense of fun and playfulness.

Try making your own diorama.

Draw a series of people or characters with pencils or pastels on a piece of card. Draw a rectangle where their feet meet the ground which is at least 3 centimetres wide and 2 centimetres deep. Cut your figure out staying close to their silhouette, including the rectangle at the bottom.

Using a glue stick, apply glue to the rectangle you've created and then bend it back and stick it to a piece of cardboard so your figures stands upright.

Repeat the process with your other figures, experiment with depth when choosing where to place them.

When you're done repeat the process by making items to decorate their space including furniture, plants etc.

