

AMAGA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

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14-17 JUNE 2022, PERTH

## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

### ABSTRACT TITLE:

The Art and Legacy of the children of Carrolup Native Settlement

### PRESENTATION TAKEAWAY:

This presentation is about a group of Noongar children who fought for survival and recognition and have inspired generations of artists, curators, film-makers and the development of the Carrolup Centre for Truth-telling at Curtin University.

### ABSTRACT CONTENT:

As the Manager of the Carrolup Centre for Truth-telling, Kathleen Toomath oversees John Curtin Gallery's (JCG) Carrolup Project, building on decades of research by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal researchers and families.

One of the main objectives of the project is to reconnect families and communities impacted by racist government policies which allowed the forced removal of thousands of Aboriginal children from their families.

Since starting at John Curtin Gallery as the Curator of First Nations Australian in early 2021, Michelle Broun has come to know the story of Carrolup with a deeper understanding and empathy for the child artists who were detained at the Carrolup Native Settlement in appalling conditions. For a time, the children were offered hope by well-meaning strangers, only to be further alienated by the powers that were.

Like many Aboriginal people interested in art and history, Michelle has known about the story of Carrolup for some time. Her role at JCG focus' on the caring and sharing of the Herbert Mayer Collection of Carrolup Art, held at JCG since 2013.

Kathleen and Michelle's presentation is part of an unfolding story- each layer revealing more about the children of Carrolup, their incredible artworks and resilience, as well as the level of racism and control metered out from the State. It honours the children of Carrolup who remain in the hearts and minds of their families and broader community. It's also about the level of responsibility caring for a cultural icon on behalf of this community and the nation.

### HOW DELEGATES CAN CONTACT THE SPEAKER:

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