

MATT ADNATE

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- Adam Goodes

VISION

Adnate is considered one of the most influential street artists in Australia and has used his artistic practice to draw focus to the Indigenous peoples of the country.

“ Being given the opportunity to paint indigenous culture has completely changed my life. I hope through my work, it challenges the cultures of racism and ignorance that are so ingrained in peoples lives. Once a person starts to see these traits in themselves and makes a change, it creates a ripple effect on the people around them. I want to achieve this on a mass level and scale. I know it’s worked with people I’ve personally met over the years, often seeing the impact my art has had on others. For indigenous people, I feel its important to communicate their history of struggle, but just as important to represent their people in a positive and beautiful light. The experiences I’ve had witnessing communities being brought to tears of joy and happiness inspires me to continue my practice for as long as possible.

The substantial moments that Adnate spends with various communities allow him to depict its members truthfully, both physically and emotionally. His impeccable skill with a spray-can combined with his unrelenting attention to detail enables Adnate to realise emotionally charged portraits - the faces watch over us with a gaze that doesn’t intimidate, but rather prompts us to question their story. Indigenous culture is there for all of us to share as it recognizes a country working in unison towards a brighter future. Adnate has learnt the importance of engaging with communities and consultation with elders and significant figures. This is a process that is important to stay true to the message he is sending through his work to the public.

ADNATE’S LIFE

Adnate grew up in inner city Melbourne and at school he didn’t learn anything about indigenous culture. In his youth he began developing a passion for graffiti and street art, and nurtured his artistic craft for 10 years. From graffiti he learnt that he held an incredible power to communicate with the public, and from there began exploring and learning about indigenous culture; the beauty of the people, and the devastation of cultural genocide that has existed for 200 years in Australia. He was able to use painting on the street to create awareness of these devastating issues.

GIVING BACK

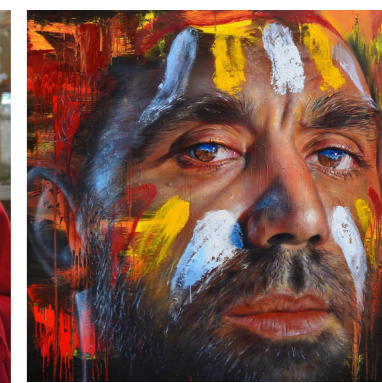
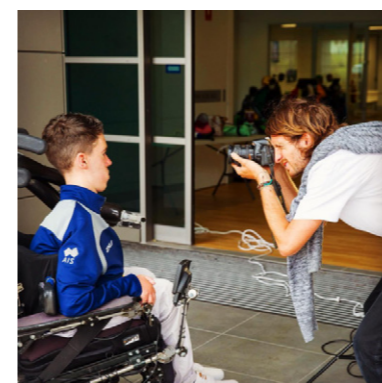
In addition to Adnate’s regular charity work he runs an annual independent fundraiser. This is done through the sales of his artworks, reaching Indigenous communities that have been the main focus of inspiration for the year with murals and exhibitions. Due to the massive success of these fundraisers, Adnate will continue this for many years to come.

2015 - Pigeon Hole (Nitjpurru NT) - Raised \$25,000.00

2016 - Frog Hollow (Purnululu WA) - Raised \$28,696.85

COMMUNITY ARTS, CHARITABLE PROJECTS & DONATIONS

- Beyond Blue: The National Depression and Anxiety Initiative, \$7,500 donated through the sales of Art in 2014. This was used to deliver Mental Health Programs targeted towards Indigenous communities across Australia
- Victorian Aboriginal Childcare Agency (VACCA) Donated Painting valued at \$10,000. The money was used to fund Youth Community Arts Project at Black Dot Gallery in 2016 - [Read Article](#)
- Monumental Murals for the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service VAHS ([watch SBS news video](#)) and the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation VACCHO, in collaboration with respected aboriginal artist Ray Thomas (Uncle Buster). Also includes mentorship of two young indigenous artists (Rubii Kulla Kulla & Kulan Barney) for the VACCHO Mural
- Blak dot Gallery, Melbourne 2014 X-Kultural Fusion Exhibition and mentorship program, collaborating with young migrants & refugee’s and Indigenous Australians
- Maysar Gym, Melbourne 2015, Donated Mural valued at \$5,000
- Purnululu School, East Kimberley 2015, Donated Mural valued at \$5,000
- Talent fee’s for Indigenous families, \$4,250
- Parkville Youth Justice Centre, Melbourne 2013-2014 mentoring of Indigenous Australian clients through art projects
- Pavilion School, Melbourne 2009-2013. Teaching and managing art projects with kids at risk and disengaged youth
- Warburton WA, 2016. Painting for Melbourne Uni Eye health, creating awareness for Trachoma Eye Health
- St Kilda, Melbourne, 2015. Mural Celebrating Nicky Winmar’s courageous football moments



COMMUNITIES ENGAGED

- Gunditjmara (VIC)
- Wiradjuri (NSW)
- Barengi Gadjin (VIC)
- Nitjpurru, Tennant Creek (NT)
- Purnululu, Frog Hollow (NT)
- Pigeon Hole (NT)
- Yolngu (NT)
- Wurundjeri (VIC)
- Gunai (VIC)
- Bindal (QLD)
- Wulgurukaba (QLD)
- Warburton (WA)

COLLABORATIONS WITH INDIGENOUS FIGURES

- Kimba Thompson, Director of Blak Dot Gallery - Cultural Advisor
- Jenny Munro, Wiradjuri elder
- Aunty Joy Murphy Wandin, Senior Wurundjeri Elder
- Jill Gallagher, CEO of Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO)
- Adam Goodes, former professional Australian rules footballer
- Ray “Uncle Buster” Thomas, Influential Indigenous Artist

BE BRAVE, PORTRAIT OF ADAM GOODES

To Adnate, Adam Goodes represents the bravery of a man that struggles with the embedded racism in Australia today. Goodes is an inspiration to all Indigenous people, his courage and remarkable stance against racism needs to be admired. Knowing that there would no doubt be a reaction to his actions and that the AFL is a predominantly ‘white fella’ sport, he stood strong in his beliefs and received the brunt of Australia’s racism. Adnate was inspired to paint Goodes in his traditional colours and markings to highlight his pride of Aboriginality, culture and traditions.

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Matt Adnate acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which he works and creates on and their Elders past and present.

Mural for Trachoma awareness in Warburton, WA desert

LEGACY

Adnate hopes that the murals he’s created will contribute to the change in society’s views and educate the public for as long as the murals can stand.

“ Respecting cultural traditions, Matt has captured the spiritual beauty of community and sacred Mother Earth. Wurundjeri country is proud to host his captivating exhibition, Ngodjkin War. Thank you Matt!

- Aunty Joy Murphy Wandin

Referring to his first exhibition on Indigenous culture “Beyond The Lands” 2014



Sheep Hills Silo
Silo Art Trail 2017

CASE STUDY - SHEEP HILLS

When the project began, the local townspeople questioned “why is he painting a 30m x 40m mural celebrating Australian Indigenous Culture in a town famous for its sheep and farming?” Adnate’s first step was to research the Indigenous history of the area by engaging local communities and their Elders. He found a strong community that centred around the Barengi Gadjin Land Council. With the help of members Regina Hood and Ron Marks he was able to research and gain knowledge of the local surrounding country. With consultation and community engagement, he decided to tell a story representing a “dreaming” significant to the area. Digging deeper into the history it revealed significant sites and other stories that had dated back many thousands of years before the town was founded. Once Adnate began painting this mural, all of this knowledge was communicated to the Sheep Hills towns people and the media, who were then taught a history they never realised existed, thus generating an enlightened perspective to an otherwise narrowed view that had been passed down over the generations. The effect it had on the local indigenous people brought them to tears of joy. For many indigenous peoples, they have been born into a life of cultural genocide. But through Adnate’s work, their culture is celebrated on a massive scale in major parts of towns and cities around the world, something they thought they’d never see in their lifetime.