

2016

## Front Matter

Antipodes Editors

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# ANTIPODES

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## Cover Art

### *Creation*

KERRY REED-GILBERT  
Photograph, 2013  
24 in x 28 in

Kerry Reed-Gilbert is a Wiradjuri woman from Lachlan River. She is a human rights activist, writer, poet, and photographer. Her work takes her around the country consulting for various Aboriginal community organizations and government departments. *Spirit of Country* at one level, then, is a kind of still-photography equivalent of the road movie. Reed-Gilbert records with a sensitive eye for composition places across Australia she has been and the way she has traveled there by air and by road. But there is more to it than that, and it is this that lifts the work from a mere travelogue to something truly evocative, poetic, and profound. As an Aboriginal woman committed to the sovereignty of her people, Reed-Gilbert has a deep connection with country. Her totem is the white cockatoo—the messenger. Just as her writing allows her to be a messenger and address issues relevant to Aboriginal people today, so too with this exhibition of photographs Reed-Gilbert points to the significance of the land in this bigger story. Every picture is a story, not just the capture of a fleeting moment but rather a proud acknowledgment that she is a representative of the oldest living culture in the world. In NAIDOC Week, we are invited to celebrate this culture, history, and heritage. At the same time, the wider Australian community is also invited to recognize and share in this knowing.

—Barbie Robinson