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About the Cover

Jenny Fraser

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About the Cover “Ancestral Country”

The cover image for this issue is an original digital composition by Yugambeh creative researcher Jenny Fraser. She was born in Far North Queensland, but her Old People originally hailed from the Scenic Rim of Northern Bundjalung Country on the border of South East Queensland and Northern Rivers regions. Jenny is a digital native working within a fluid screen-based practice whose work has been celebrated internationally. She is an artist, digital curator, and academic. She received her doctorate from Batchelor Institute in 2017 and now lives in the East Coast of Australia.

Jenny emphasizes, “Showing images of our ancestral country is a powerful response to colonialism in Australia. Revolving around the impact of the British Empire under the guise of religion, education, and economics, this work seeks to give a platform to those of us that continue to suffer injustice, to express decolonizing viewpoints, and to share storytelling by using a range of different mediums to create intentional dialogue.” She describes art as “a meeting ground” because “in the Aboriginal Arts industries, the personal is always political. At this time, when screen time is overwhelmingly dominating, we need to get more proactive and critically selective in the digital space. The aim is to develop a public consciousness that can be used to further challenge colonialism, show the damage done, and subvert the dominant narratives of history in the global southern land now known as Australia.”

In her art practice, Jenny utilizes popular cultural references as a bridge to decolonization and challenges viewers’ frames of reference. Her current focus is healing work with Bush Foods, Plant Medicine, Flower Essences, and other Body Work, using the raw energy of plants, helping people to help themselves, and revitalizing ancient practices. Jenny has a professional background in art and media education spanning across three decades. She also runs Solid Screen Healing Arts Retreats and maintains a creative practice alongside lecturing and publishing.

Jenny’s work has been included in major showcases such as *Interactiva*, a biennial in Merida, Mexico, and the inaugural Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards at the Art Gallery of Western Australia. As a curator, Jenny has been growing the field of Aboriginal media arts and practice internationally,

founding cyberTribe Online Gallery in 2000, the National Experimental Film Festival at the Gold Coast, and the Blackout Collective in 2002. Jenny was awarded the Australia Council Experimental Arts Award in 2022 and a Residency Fellowship in New York City 2023.