



KAMAY BAY 2020

Commemorative Installation

Submission by Think OTS

This Design Concept is a cross – cultural collaboration between Gweagal Artist Theresa Ardler and Public Artist / Sculptor Julie Squires.

To bring to life the First Encounter theme - the view from the ship, the view from the shore, we have envisaged four installations. Each one references the moment when two diverse cultures combined to create the beginnings of our shared history.

Our installations aim to provide a legacy for future generations to reflect and hear the stories of this important place by providing a balance to the existing monuments. We will do this by making 'visible the invisible' - the spirit and culture of the Gweagal People.

The journey begins with three elements that encapsulate the 'view from the ship'. As their totem, the iconic figure of Dharawal Dreaming, the humpback whale, represents symbolically the people Cook encountered – the Gweagal people of Kamay Bay. Wi-Yanga and Gurung (Mother and Baby) stand as a welcome by sea.

The second element, a Gweagal family group, is inspired by a journal entry of Joseph Banks, which records his observation of the family from the ship.

A traditional stringy bark canoe forms the third element. People fishing in bark canoes were seen from the ship and recorded by both Cook and Banks. People fishing from canoes also feature in the oral history 'first encounter story' passed on by family to the Gweagal Lead artist, Theresa Ardler.

The final element is an installation called Yalabi Dayalung Bora – The Gathering. This element represents the 'view from the shore'. The Gweagal people thought the ship was a big white bird coming in through the heads and heading towards them, as the white sails reminded them of white bird wings stretching out as far as they could go, ready to fly. Our big white bird is formed in flannel flowers that oversee a Bora or gathering place for ceremony and the passing on cultural knowledge. The Gathering is designed as a contemporary Bora - an outdoor cultural learning environment.

