

Yinaa – Gibir (A Woman – A Man)

*Painted with 87 Dabee descendants of Jimmy and Peggy Lambert for the Kandos Museum, Cementa Festival of Art, 2015.*

As an Aboriginal artist, if you are invited to create art anywhere in Australia you have an ethical obligation to contact the local people. In 2014, I told the descendants of Peggy and Jimmy Lambert that if they were to make a claim to be the premier Aboriginal landowners, they had to exhibit it – perform some ritual to indicate this, to make your presence visible. And I don't mean being invited for a 'token' payment to make a 'token' appearance at some public events. I worked with the great-great-great-grandchildren of the Lamberts to paint their images onto the large external wall of the Kandos Museum (35 square metres). The finger painting by some 87 of their grandchildren was apt in another way, as it was the painting style of the day in Jimmy and Peggy's times, both referring to French pointillism and the Australian Heidelberg School of painting. Jimmy and Peggy were survivors of the Dabee Massacre of 1823 and so to bring their presence and that of the identity of their children back into the local history 'warts and all' was very important. Several thousand visitors to the festival saw the work and quite a number of discussions on local history and family trees took place – the mural providing a mnemonic device.

Djon Mundine OAM

Concept Curator of the 1988 Aboriginal Memorial

Yinaa - Gibir

A Woman - A Man

Peggy + Jimmy Lambert

(1820-1884) (1820-1900)

Survivors of the 1823 Dabee Massacre

Curated by Djon Mundine

Created by Dabee Clan People (87), participants of Cementa 2015 & Djon Mundine

Kandos Museum Mural