

Awakening the Sacred through Literature and the Arts



Awakening the Sacred through Australian Poetry and Painting.

“Meditation highlights even the most ordinary, routine aspects of life it draws out their latent sacramental value and hidden meaning....” John Main in “Sacramental Vision” *Monastery Without Walls*

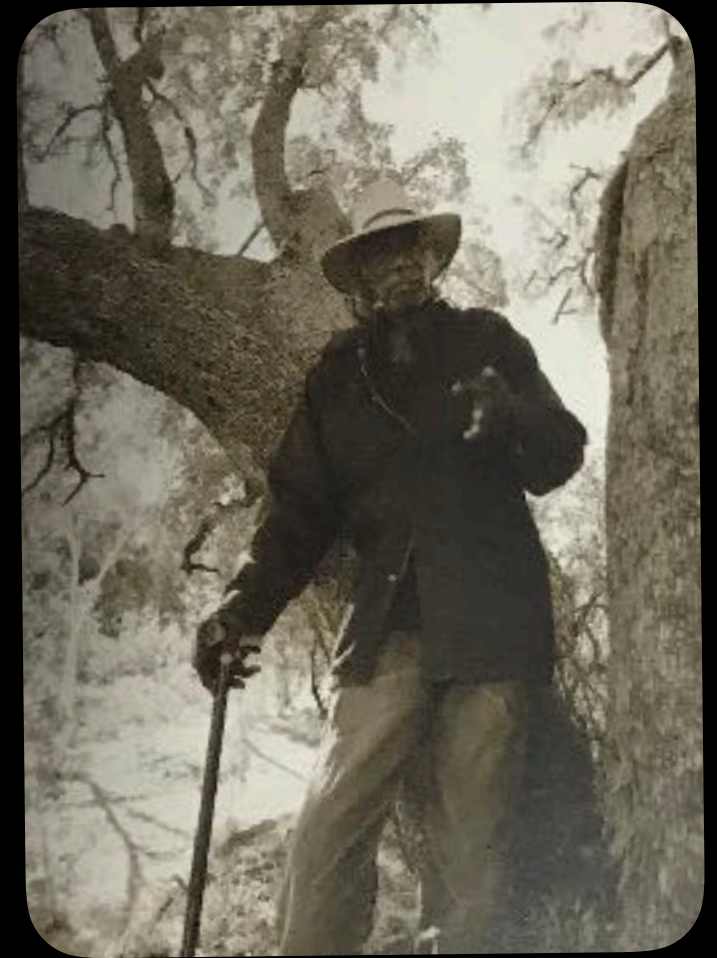
How do literature and the other arts assist in awakening the sacred and is meditation itself an art that also works in this way?



Five Days Old



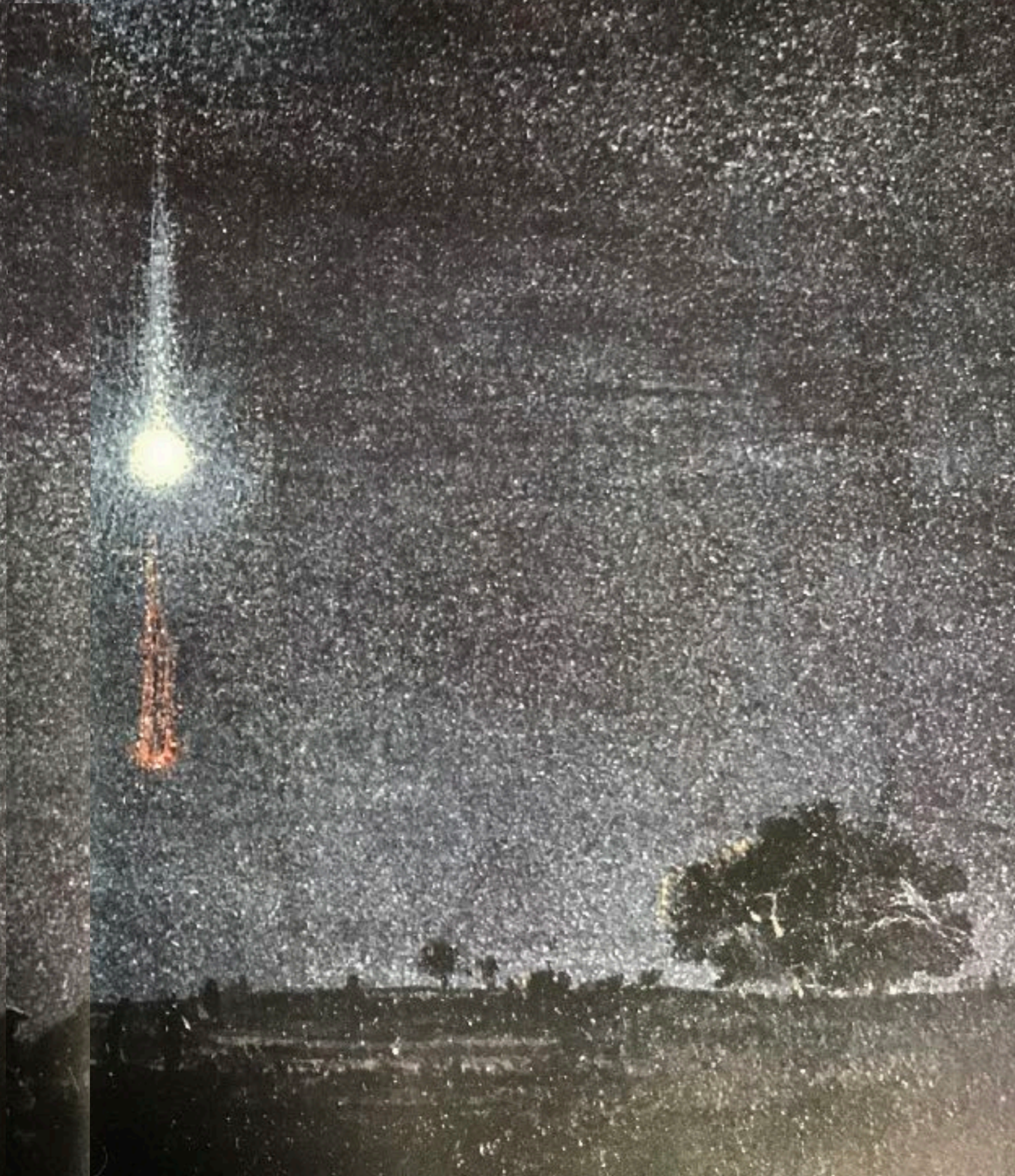
Rusty Peters
Three Nyawana in
Yariny Country
2016



“I bin ask Rover what you painting for? Him and those old people got me thinking and today I keep going, painting my Country, Ngarrangkarni (Dreamtime stories), for my father and grandmother’s Country, where I was born, the trees, milky way, all them things.”

Ludwig Becker: *1860 Meteor Seen by Me on Oct11th at 10h 35 m pm at the river Darling 25 miles N. of the Macpherson's station in Lat: 33 S.*

“it made its appearance in a bright part of the milky way near the tail of Scorpio, to the right of it, but to the left of the Ecliptic; it commenced small but grew in the time of 1 ½ second to 7 inches, the moon taken to 12. Green colour; after disappearance red sparks:




“The Pool and the Star”



Judith Wright on Francis Webb:

He's done so much suffering for me and I've read him so much and I think that 's what poetry is for. Francis is for me always like his own goal. "The gull in a green storm clear as the maker's name". (From Images in Winter)



the gull
in a green
storm
clear as the
maker's
balm

David Boyd *Edward John Eyre*

FRANCIS WEBB “Banksia” from *Eyre All Alone*

*John Main: The truth is that neither we
nor creation have lost the divine radiance.
But we have lost the faculty of seeing it.*



Ferdinand Bauer 1813 Banksia Coccinea



Brett Whiteley *Alchemy* 1972-1973





Brett Whiteley *Alchemy*

**Brett
Whiteley
*Alchemy***





Brett Whiteley *Alchemy*



- **Joseph Conrad “Preface to *Nigger of Narcissus*”** **The Task of the Artist:** to arrest, for the space of a breath, the hands busy about the work of the earth, and compel men entranced by the sight of distant goals to glance for a moment at the surrounding vision of form and colour, of sunshine and shadows; to make them pause... — such is the aim, difficult and evanescent, and reserved only for a very few to achieve. But sometimes, by the deserving and the fortunate, even that task is accomplished. And when it is accomplished — behold! — all the truth of life is there: a moment of vision...



William Robinson *Cicada Landscape* 1986



Towards the Sea from Springbrook 1995



David Malouf on Robinson:a bit of local earth whose **vigorous being**, and variety and otherness is **taken so deeply in** by the observing eye, and so lovingly and movingly **remade in the creator's consciousness**, as to **make consciousness and the created world** when we enter these painted landscapes, **one**.

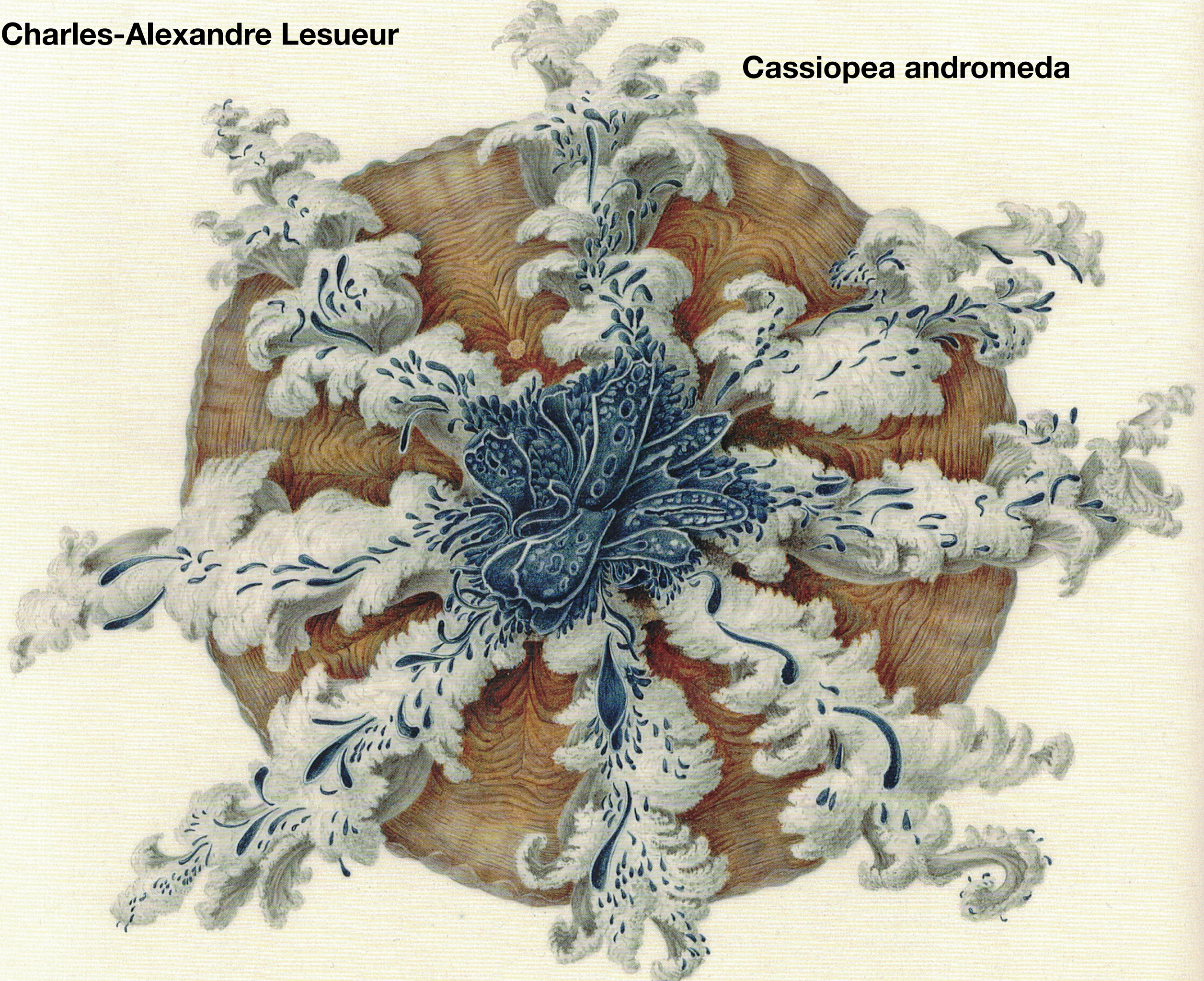
William Robinson

Cicada Landscape & Towards the Sea from Springbrook



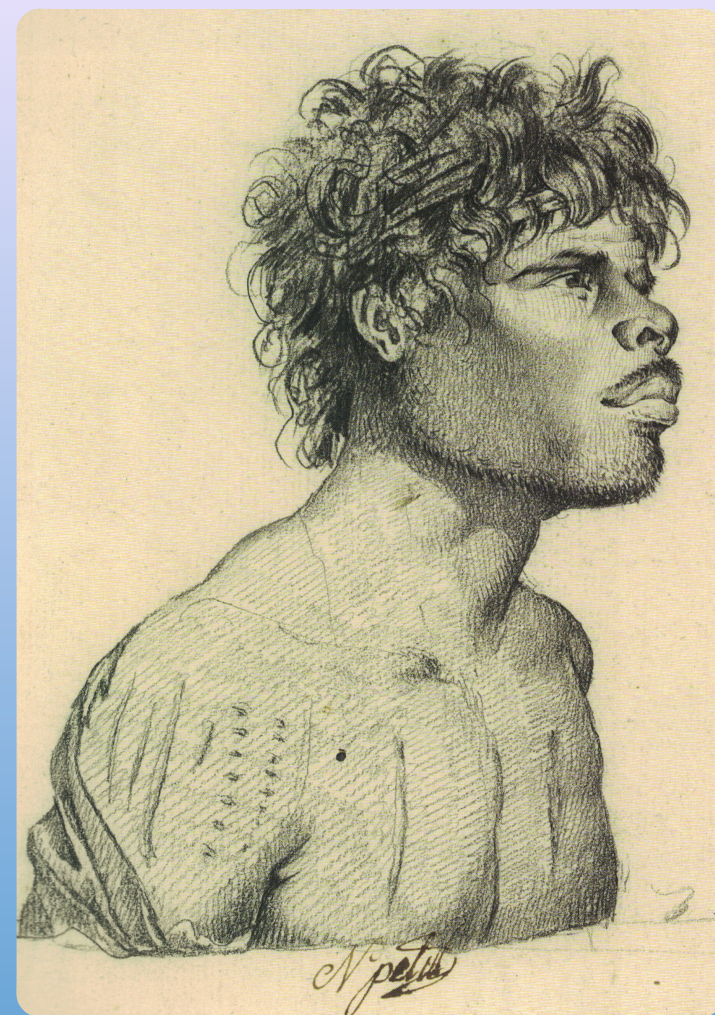
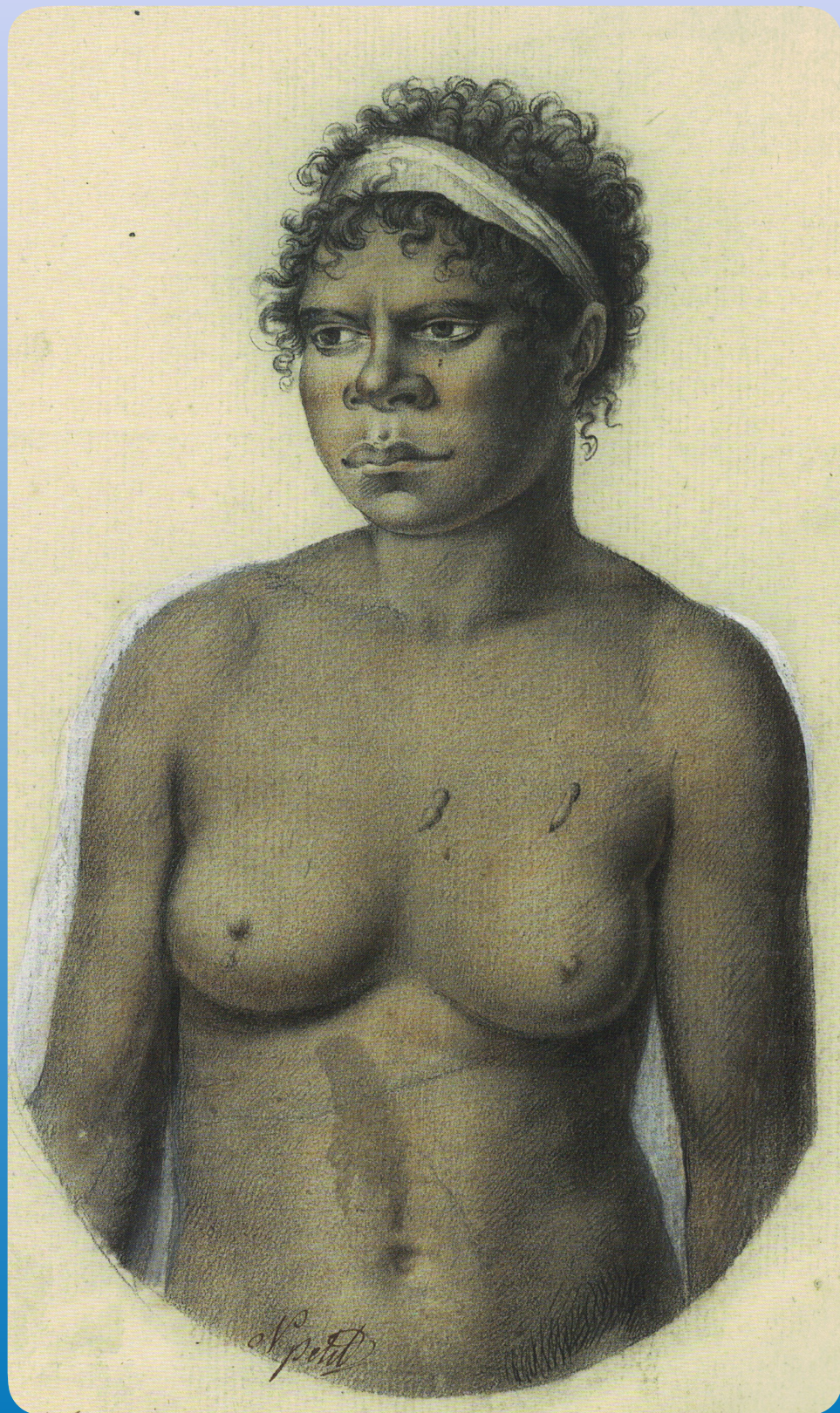
Charles-Alexandre Lesueur

Cassiopea andromeda



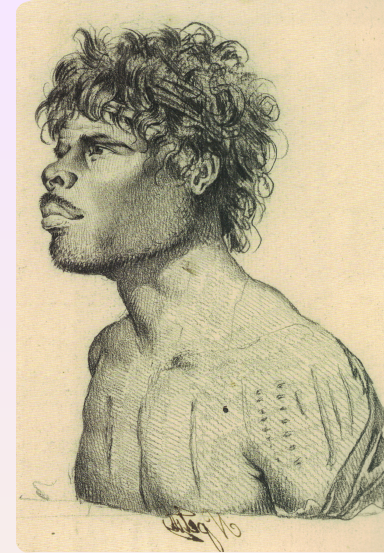
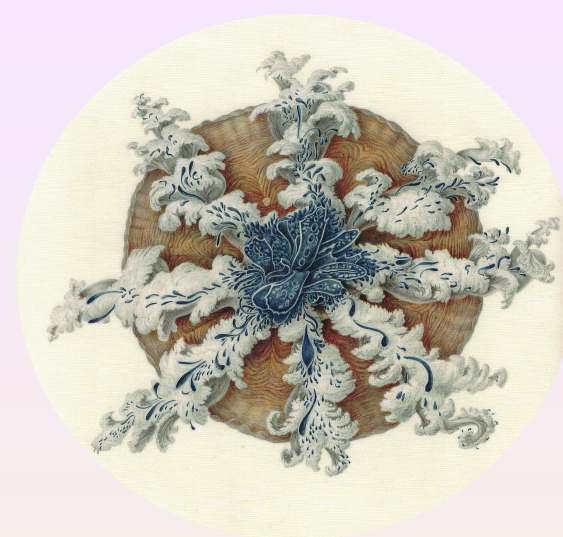
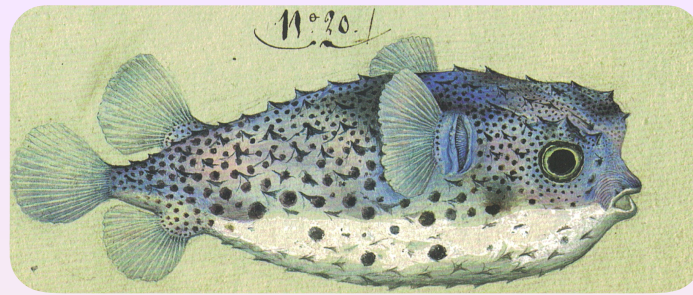
Charles Alexander Lesueur OR Nicolas-Martin Petit Porcupine Fish





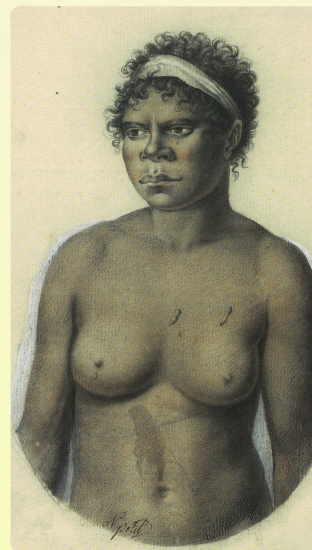


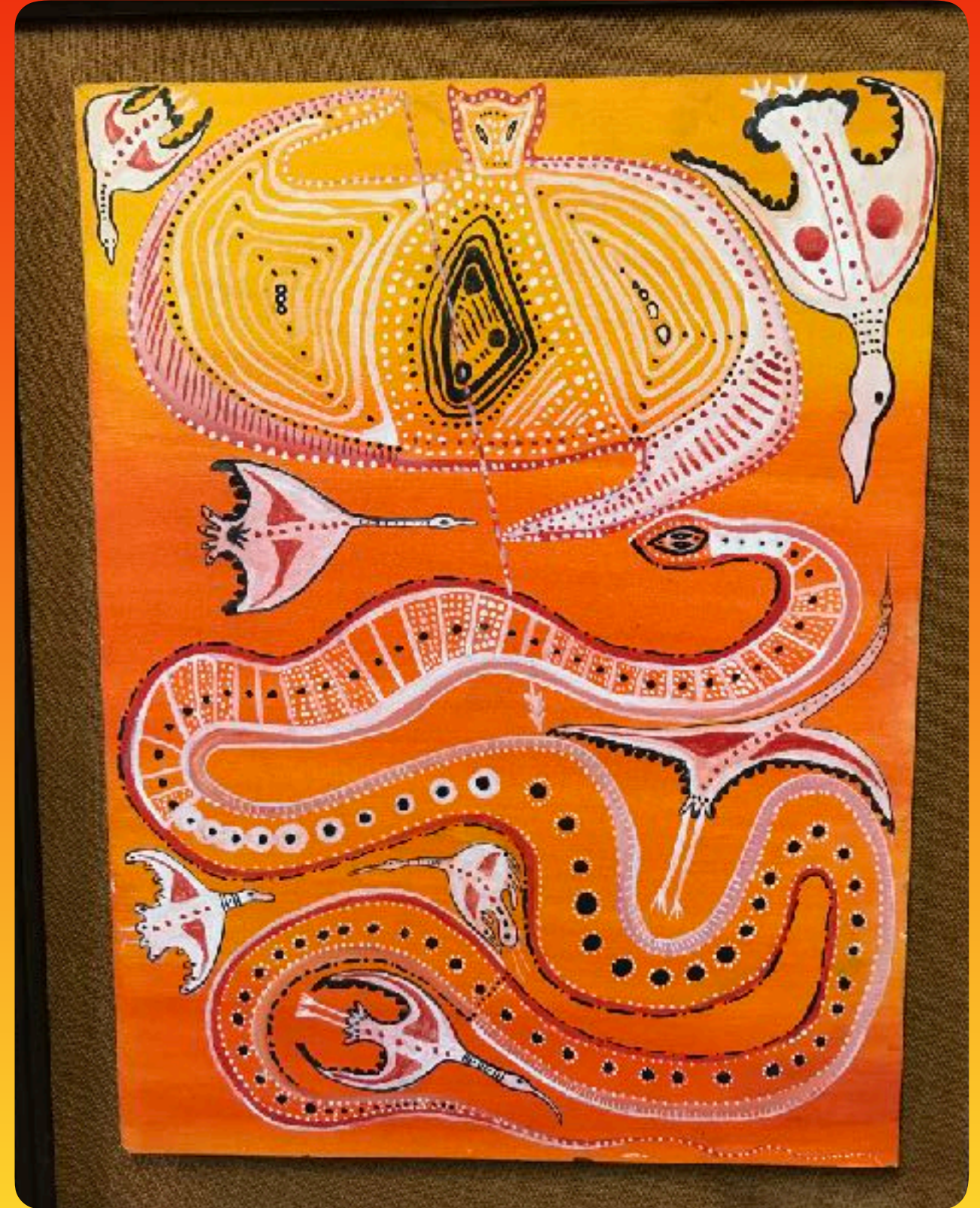
Nicholas Baudin



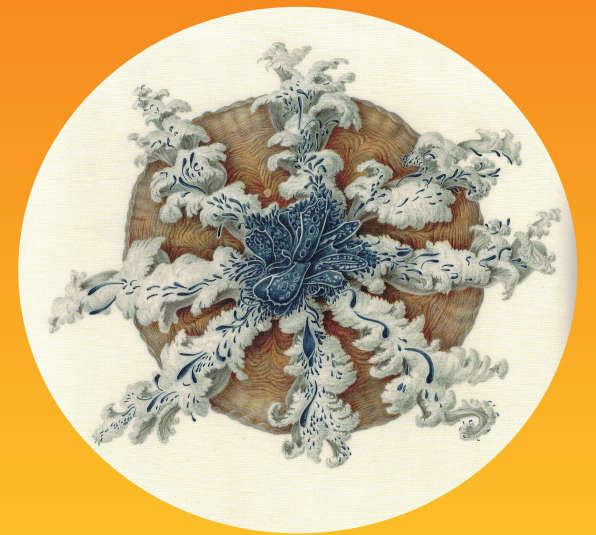
When I reflect upon it, it has always been inconceivable to me that there was any justice or even fairness on the part of Europeans in seizing, in the name of their government, a land they saw for the first time when it was inhabited by people who did not always deserve the titles of 'savages' and 'cannibals' that were lavished on them, even though they were still only nature's children and no more uncivilized than your present-day Scottish Highlanders or our peasants of Lower Brittany... That being so, it seems to me that it would be infinitely more glorious for your nation, as for my own, to instruct in the ways of society the inhabitants of our own countries over whom we have rights, than to seek to educate those living in far distant places, having first seized the land that belongs to them and is the land of their birth. These words are certainly not those of a politician, but they at least make sense in practical terms; and if this principle had been generally adopted you would not have had to establish a colony with men branded by the law and made criminals through the fault of a government which has neglected them and left them to fend for themselves. It thus follows that not only do you have one injustice on your conscience, in seizing their land, but you have also transported to a land where the crimes and diseases of Europeans were unknown everything that could retard the progress of the civilizing mission that was used as a pretext by your government, etc., etc., (and more) Reflections of a Philosophical Voyager. Nicolas Baudin Letter to Philip Gidley King 24 December 1802.

from Reflections of a Philosophical Voyager, Edited and Translated by Jean Fornasiero. Friends of the State Library of South Australia, 2016





Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr: *Billabong Life* & *Serpent and Geese*



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