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Brook Andrew on Leading This Year's Sydney Biennale and His Favorite First Nations Artists

Jake Miller – October 26, 2020



PHOTOGRAPHER: COURTESY OF ROSLYN OXLEY NINE GALLERY

Kaylene Whiskey, 'I Love the Flag' (2019)

"I like to listen to rock music and Tina Turner, and I paint with really strong colours, I put in lots of the special details, and everyone likes it. I paint strong stories, too, paintings about heaven and Jesus, and sometimes Mintabie (a local mining town) and paintings about my Country Indulkana. Sometimes my paintings tell hard stories, but my paintings are always colourful and painting them makes me happy."

"Biennales have a very dark history, so for me it was about: how can this system change? It was a way in which to hand that power and that legacy over to the artists and redefine it."

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'Nirin' roughly translates as 'edge' in Wiradjuri, the language of Andrew's mother and is a word he chose for its many connotations – of crossing boundaries and borders, of living on the fringe of society – but also because of the way it centres Indigenous language.