



Welcome to Country with Ian Wilkes // Kolyang Reflections // Zoe Street

We gather

62 artists and counting
 A moment of coming together
 On Whadjuk Noongar Boodjar
 We greet the land with smoke and song
 Birds calling, leaves murmur
 The land is greeting us back.
 Kaya.

Who are you, who am I, who are we
 Silence, Silence, Silence
 Ngang Kaaditjing, Ngang Djinging.
 Women and men
 Or however we choose to identify
 Young and old
 Emerging or established
 or just still here

Sometimes just barely hanging on
 Looking back, looking forward,
 looking around
 Each on our own path
 no turning back
 "I can't go on, I'll go on"

Black, White, person of colour
 Indigenous, settler, colonizer,
 immigrant, refugee, asylum seeker
 We all come from somewhere
 Urban or regional, gay or straight,
 CIS gendered, trans or non-binary
 Artists with disabilities
 Or just artists with different abilities.

All are welcome here.

We gather. We listen. We share.

Sitting in circle, ancestral wisdom is generously shared
The embodied blood memory

How do we value

Time

Space

Place?

How do we care for the collective?

Va

The space between us



What do time and space and place mean
In my family, my culture, at home, at work?
How was I taught time at home?
Spending time together, eating and talking.

We engage in Place Space Protocol in

Honesty

Interconnection

Community

Inclusive

Alive

We are valued

We are Diverse, Compassionate
and Connected

We give and take

Building relationships

Healing

We face our discomfort

We gather. We listen. We share

Between us threads connect
Weaving a web
One moves, we all shift
Interconnected, emergent

Artists and organisations
We're all in this together
We all need each other
I can't do this without you.



We gather. We listen. We share

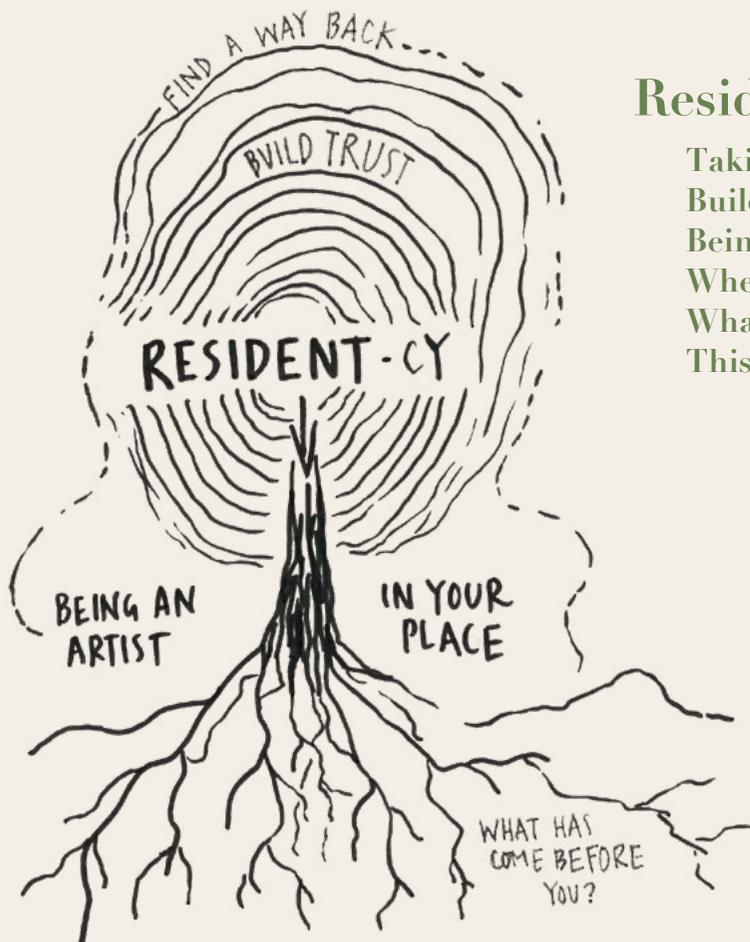
I am we are artists
For 3 weeks we continue sitting in circles
We have big conversations
Questions after question after question
Showing up to talk about difficult things
Words like
Artist sustainability

White supremacy
Racial justice
Decolonising
Disability justice
Who are you making art for?
Who is included?
Who is not?

We come with big hearts and dreams of a different world

- We want artists to be valued
- We want universal basic income for all
- We want free art for audiences
- We want to see disabled joy on stage
- We want a culturally & socially connected and empowering space
- We want art on every street
- We want real community

We gather. We listen. We share



Residencies

- Taking time
- Building relationships
- Being a resident in my own community
- Where do I live? Where do I reside?
- What is my community?
- This is my community

- Facing our discomfort
- Questions questions questions
- Listening, Listening, Listening

Change in the arts – real or perceived

- What are my circles of concern?
- What can I change?
- What can't I change?
- I can't change everything

- Small changes more than big changes
- Building on the past
- Piece by piece
- Rather than tearing down the house
- An intersectional ethics of care
- Doesn't just mean being nice to each other

Artist run initiatives

- Learning from each other
- Across artforms, across generations
- Breaking down the silos
- Learning from our mistakes
- 'Fail again, fail better'
- Nothing lasts forever

- As we talk there are
- Tears
- Frustration
- Pain Overwhelm
- Exhaustion.
- The fight, the fatigue is real

Artists inside organisations

Advising and driving organisations
In ensembles
As resident or associate artists
On boards and panels
Being involved in making decisions
Having a voice
Having stability and security of employment
Part-time or full-time
But long term for one or two years
With flexible hours
Sharing jobs, sharing the workload,
Having succession plans
Being able to come and go,
to leave and return,
or go elsewhere

Embedding change inside organisations
Accepting change as a part of our live

LET'S IMAGINE
OUR FUTURE

Making art that changes things
Making art that changes lives
Making real changes
Creating jobs and positions and
opportunities that aren't just tokenistic

Not just ticking boxes
Getting rid of boxes
Getting rid of CALD
Learning about data justice

All are welcome here
We all need each other

It's not easy.
Yet with courage we keep showing up
Returning to place
Returning to relationship
Again and again and again
Weaving our web stronger and ever expansive

KOLYANG

creative hub

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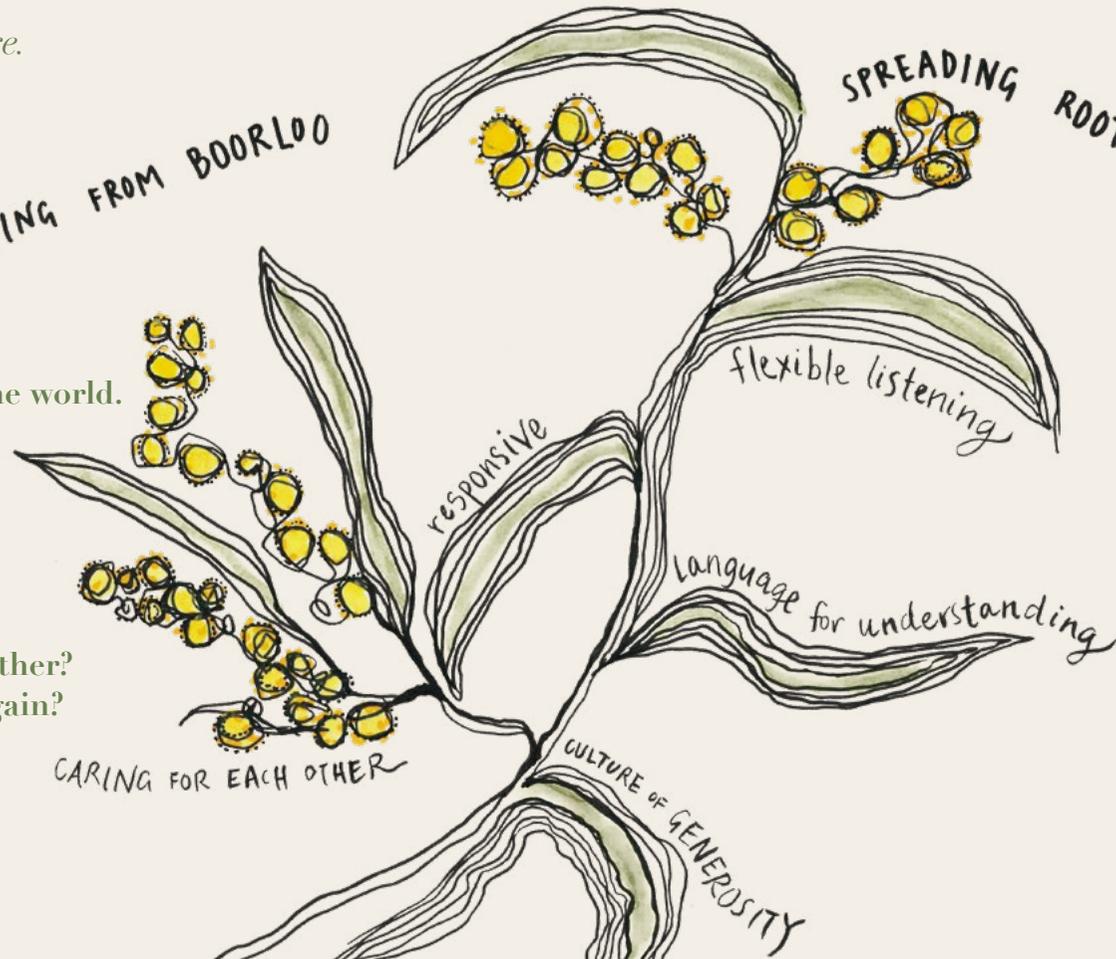
STARTING FROM BOORLOO

SPREADING

ROOTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Kolyang.
Starting from Boorloo.
Spreading roots throughout the world.
62 artists and counting.

**How will we return to one another?
When will we see each other again?**



A reflective poem gathered and collated by Humphrey Bower, Maitland Schnaars, & Zoe Street from listening and observing conversations, panels and activities at the Kolyang Creative Hub 2021. These words are intended to reflect ideas and experiences shared by panelists, facilitators and participants of the hub and belong to the collective, not the artist. Special thank you and acknowledgement to Ian Wilkes for the Welcome to Country and Emele Ugalve sharing your practice and the concept of 'va' (the space between), as words from both experiences are quoted in this poem.

Drawings by Zoe Street.