

“You, Dymphna, will organise”

I confess I became a member of the Aboriginal Treaty Committee only because I had already rejected two suggestions made by Judith Wright for a useful outlet for my supposed energies. Another refusal would have destroyed my credibility forever, so I accepted, with trepidation.

Soon I was caught up with enthusiasm for this very imperative cause and with the exhilaration of working with such a very special group. I seemed to have no special contribution to make, so when Nugget Coombs turned to me and said: “You, Dymphna, will organise the Art Exhibition” — I could only remain weakly silent.

The Exhibition was a revelation of the generosity to which artists can rise. Whenever there is a temptation to be depressed at humankind, I think of the 69 artists round Australia who willingly parted with their



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pictures — that is, with their heart's blood and their bread and butter — for a paramount idea.

Now we hope that Australian Aborigines themselves and the governments of goodwill round Australia will together forge strong instruments to help right the great wrong.

Perhaps a group of younger Australians with younger ideas will come forward to follow up the work of this Committee?

Aboriginal Treaty Committee Papers

AIATSIS Library, MS 1867

"You, Dymphna, will organise ...", Dymphna Clark,

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