

# The Sydney Morning Herald

CULTURE ART &amp; DESIGN

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## The great Australian landscape

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THE Australian landscape has always been represented in the works of the artists chosen to commemorate Australia Day, but this year, for the first time, the *Herald* has asked the artists to focus on this wonderful enduring tradition. When choosing this year's artists we were eager to showcase the diversity of Australia and the many different ways artists express what they see and experience.

The *Herald* is delighted to have Luke Sciberras on the front page this year. Still relatively young for an artist, Luke has established himself over a decade as someone committed to making art that expresses the poetry of the bush. His reputation continues to grow.

An incessant traveller, his many painting expeditions have taken him to some of this country's most famous landscapes, including the Flinders Ranges in South Australia, Wilcannia's Paroo River in NSW, the MacDonnell Ranges in the Northern Territory and, recently, Lake Eyre. When not travelling Luke lives and works in historic Hill End, where he plays host to many artist friends who come to paint and share Luke's generosity and love for life.

This year we also feature a remarkably inventive artist, John Peart, whom many consider one of this country's finest abstract painters. His unique, complex and meditative paintings span almost five decades of practice. His Australia Day painting *Angophora* pays homage to the orange, twisted, bark-shedding trees that populate the Sydney basin.



Luke Sciberras. TAMARA DEAN

I am also very pleased that we have been able to include Rosella Namok, an acclaimed indigenous artist from the Lockhart River region in Queensland. She is a teacher and a highly regarded artist who has had numerous exhibitions in Australia and overseas.

I would like to thank the artists for coming up with such great work and I hope you enjoy the results of their endeavour.

### **Leo Robba, artist and curator**

These pictures form an exhibition on view until January 29 at Tim Olsen Gallery, 63 Jersey Road, Woollahra

Tuesday to Friday 10am-6pm

Saturday 10am-5pm

Sunday 12pm-5pm

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The Road to Mutawintji was commissioned exclusively by the *Herald*, the original painting by Luke Sciberras appeared on *The Sydney Morning Herald* Australia Day wrap, published on January 26, 2012. A fine art print is available for sale.

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