

Like you, I am a supporter of Indigenous Art, and I am here to celebrate Indigenous Art, but I am also here to remind you that Indigenous Art needs a particular kind of support outside the remit of this dinner tonight.

All of us who care about Indigenous Art must insist our collecting institutions only accept well-provenanced work by Indigenous artists into their collections, whether as a direct gift or under the Cultural Gifts Program.

The consequences if they don't reject such work, are wide ranging. Indigenous Art is traduced, brought into disrepute, and profoundly disrespected when inferior works of unreliable provenance are accepted. They may or may not be authentic, and were almost certainly obtained under unfair conditions of trade in an arrangement that was not transparent and is impossible to scrutinise.

If you want to pursue this matter talk to me tonight or look at my website -
suzannespunner.com/art-authentication

where you will find the article from *The Australian Financial Review*, 'National Museum to Investigate \$1.2m Rover Thomas donation' by Gabriella Coslovich, and you can read my submission to the Investigation.

Dr Suzanne Spunner

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