Lecture summary:
Symbols and allegories in art, even when investigated, frequently remain enigmatic or subject to varying interpretations. Meanings, if once clear, become opaque for us as artworks recede further into the past. We are also frequently separated from meaning in works created under the mantle of different cultures.

But where are we with Sidney Nolan? One of our most important artistic iconographers of the Australian continent was a white Australian male; from our modern period, our milieu. How much aid do we need to comprehend his art?

This lecture explores what may be some of the hidden meanings embedded in the art of Nolan, through contemplation of works in three of his most iconic series of paintings – the Ned Kelly works, the Eliza Fraser series, and the paintings of Burke and Wills.

Slide list:
- Sidney Nolan, Kelly and bush 1945, enamel on cardboard, The Nolan Collection, Canberra Museum and Art Gallery, Canberra
- Sidney Nolan, Untitled abstract c1939, oil on blotting paper, Art Gallery of NSW. Purchased 2013
- Sidney Nolan, Untitled (St Kilda) c 1943, ripolin enamel on cardboard, Art Gallery of NSW. Purchased 2013
- Sidney Nolan, Self portrait (1943), ripolin enamel on hessian sacking, Art Gallery of NSW. Purchased with funds provided by the Art Gallery Society of NSW 1997
- Sidney Nolan, Kiata 1943, ripolin enamel on hardboard, National Gallery of Australia. Purchased 1973
- Sidney Nolan, Kelly 1946, ripolin enamel on hardboard, National Gallery of Australia. Gift of Sunday Reed 1977
- Sidney Nolan, Constable Fitzpatrick and Kate Kelly 1946, ripolin enamel on hardboard, National Gallery of Australia. Gift of Sunday Reed 1977
- Sidney Nolan, Death of Constable Scanlon 1946, ripolin enamel on hardboard, National Gallery of Australia. Gift of Sunday Reed 1977
- Sidney Nolan, First-class marksman 1946, ripolin enamel and alkyd on hardboard, Art Gallery of NSW. Purchased with funds provided by the Gleeson O'Keefe Foundation 2010
- Sidney Nolan, Robbed 1947, ripolin enamel on hardboard, Art Gallery of NSW. Purchased with funds provided by the Nelson Meers Foundation 2004
- Sidney Nolan, Glenrowan 1946, ripolin enamel on hardboard, National Gallery of Australia. Gift of Sunday Reed 1977
Sidney Nolan, **Mrs Fraser 1947**, ripolin enamel on hardboard, QAGOMA, Brisbane. Purchased 1995
- Sidney Nolan, **Death of Captain Fraser 1948**, ripolin enamel on hardboard, The Nolan Collection, Canberra Museum and Art Gallery, Canberra
- Sidney Nolan, **Mrs Fraser and Bracefell** 1946, ripolin enamel on hardboard, Private collection, Melbourne
- Sidney Nolan, **Convict and Mrs Fraser** 1957, polyvinyl acetate on hardboard, Private collection
- Sidney Nolan, **Island (1947)**, ripolin enamel on hardboard, Art Gallery of NSW. Purchased with funds provided by the Art Gallery Society of NSW 2001
- Sidney Nolan, **Central Australia 1950**, ripolin enamel and oil on hardboard, Art Gallery of NSW. Purchased with funds provided by the Nelson Meers Foundation 2004
- Sidney Nolan, **Burke and Wills expedition 1948**, ripolin enamel on hardboard, The Nolan Collection, Canberra Museum and Art Gallery, Canberra
- Sidney Nolan, **Camels in the landscape 1950**, ripolin enamel and oil on hardboard, Reserve Bank of Australia collection. Purchased 1951
- Sidney Nolan, **Burke and Wills leaving Melbourne 1950**, ripolin enamel and oil on hardboard, Private collection
- Sidney Nolan, **Burke at Coopers Creek, 1950**, ripolin enamel and oil on hardboard, National Gallery of Australia. A gift to the people of Australia by Mr and Mrs Benno Schmidt of New York city and Esperance, WA through the American Friends of the Australian National Gallery 1987
- Sidney Nolan, **Perished 1949**, ripolin enamel and oil on hardboard, The University of Western Australia Art Collection, Perth. Tom Collins Memorial Fund 1953
- Sidney Nolan, **Kelly and armour 1962**, ripolin enamel and oil on hardboard, Private collection
- Sidney Nolan, **Burke and Wills Expedition 1962**, ripolin enamel and oil on hardboard, (ex) James Fairfax Collection
- Sidney Nolan, **Mrs Fraser and the convict 1962-64**, ripolin enamel on hardboard, QAGOMA, Brisbane. Purchased 1988 with assistance of David Jones, Australia and Sir Sidney Nolan to mark the company’s 150th anniversary
- Sidney Nolan, **Woman and billabong 1957**, polyvinyl acetate on hardboard, TATE Gallery, London. Purchased 1957
- Sidney Nolan, **Riverbend I, 1964-5**, oil on hardboard, nine panels, Drill Hall Gallery, Australian University collection, Canberra

**Reference:**

For access to all past lecture notes visit: