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Cover painting:

Artist: Gordon Syron
Title: *Meeting Place: Spirits of the Past & Present*
Medium: Oil on Belgium Linen
Size: 160 X 210cm.
Year: 2005

Artist's Statement:

Painted for the first-ever Parliament of New South Wales Indigenous Art Prize.

I named this painting "The Meeting Place" as the New South Wales Parliament was the focal point in Aboriginal People's mind that we could get justice here and that laws could be passed to give us justice, to give us back our sacred sites. The signs in the painting speak for themselves. The signs are a tribute to Aboriginal History and the many generations of Aboriginal people who met in front of Parliament House and asked for voting Rights, Land Rights, Equal Rights, and human Rights.

In the title is the "Spirits of the Past and Present" are our ancestors, the original people of Sydney Harbour who took the first wave of attack from the colonization of the British and punishments that followed. There have been many Aboriginal leaders and Aboriginal teachers and we need to honour these people that began and worked so hard to keep, example Naomi Mayers, Aboriginal Medical Service.

I counted them, the steps up to the Parliament House and there are 13 steps to Justice, so I put exactly 13 steps in my painting. (13 was also my number in prison for 10 long years).

There is no front door because we have not got justice yet and we are still waiting for Justice.

There are no wildflowers in front of Parliament House, only concrete, so I painted wildflowers there because it is true there used to be many native flowers there and now they are once again there "Where the Wildflowers Once Grew" and I think the Parliament House looks better with the flowers there in my painting.

Cover Design and layout by Francisco Fisher.

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