

BLAK DOUGLAS



THE HALFWAY LINE

Exhibition Opening _____ Saturday 22 March, 6-8pm

Artist Talk _____ Sunday 23 March, 11am

Open Day _____ Saturday 31 May, 10am-2pm

NAIDOC Week _____ Monday 7 - Friday 11 July

BLAK DOUGLAS

THE HALFWAY LINE

Blak Douglas: *The Halfway Line*

Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of The Lewers Bequest

15 March - 20 July 2025

Land, hill, lines, the road, a vanishing point. When one comes to a barrier you can stop, settle, or go back; cross the line and advance; or disappear, into the future. One crosses the line naturally in the aging process. But to cross the moral line, or the intellectual, revelatory, and social barrier lines, are artistically important others. They require insight, and courage.

The Halfway Line is the first major survey exhibition of Aboriginal artist Blak Douglas. Born Adam Douglas Hill in Blacktown, and raised in Penrith, Blak Douglas is now considered one of Australia's most iconic and incisive artists. With a sharp wit and a wholly singular aesthetic, Douglas has produced a body of work that brings to the foreground the social, political and philosophical realities of First Nations people living in Australia today.

In constructing an exhibition in First Nations terms, this exhibition focuses on site, the artist's relationship to that place, and that something should remain behind to fix the artist and Indigenous people into the history and environment of the place. A shadow line to this is that the artist must be present, be visible and their voice heard.

Developed by Penrith Regional Gallery in partnership with Douglas, and Djon Mundine OAM FAHA, this survey exhibition represents a 'coming home' for Douglas, who marks this halfway point of his life - and career - by returning to where it all began. From here, Douglas' artistic and social interests and preoccupations are evident from early examples through to the present day.

Featuring works spanning the first thirty years of Douglas' practice, including major loans from the National Gallery of Australia and the Art Gallery of New South Wales, *The Halfway Line* is the largest single presentation of the artist's work to date, that culminates with the artist's winning of the 2022 Archibald Prize.

Every end is a new beginning. Adam Hill - Blak Douglas, keeps crossing lines and barriers, career-wise and personally. Where the future lies, is uncertain, suffice to say it sits at the vanishing point.

Curatorial Advisor: Djon Mundine OAM FAHA

This exhibition has been proudly supported by TLE Electricals and with the assistance of the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

Born Adam Douglas Hill in Blacktown, Western Sydney to a Dhungatti father and Caucasian mother, Blak Douglas carries English, German, Irish and Scottish ancestry. The moniker 'Blak Douglas' was conceived in 2014 to honour his dominant First Nations and Scottish genealogies. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Western Sydney Nepean in 1994, he shifted his focus from his training in illustration and photography to become self-practiced in painting, with his style largely driven by politics, social justice, and a hint of irony and sarcasm.

Blak Douglas won the Kilgour Prize in 2019, the STILL Award in 2020, and the Archibald Prize in 2022. He has exhibited extensively, including at the 3rd National Indigenous Art Triennial at the National Gallery of Australia, TARNANTHI festival in Adelaide, and the Aboriginal Art Museum Utrecht in the Netherlands.