

native rage

Dominic Guerrera¹

24 hour news cycle

CCTV footage

‘of Aboriginal appearance’

most wanted handcuffed dragged in front of cameras

nightly news first story from the top

the blak criminal is alive and well

don't switch the channel

this is not to be missed

as the revolution will not be televised

but the genocide will

Solution: incarcerate to obliterate

nothing unusual

nothing weird

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funny how the footage of blak deaths in custody

always seems to disappear

they are just white men doing their job

in a system design to kill native mob

LIKE I SAID

they are just white men doing their job

they are not monsters

they are just humans capable of doing monstrous things

we are forced to spend days

in hospitals

in funeral homes

in detention

in prisons

in cop cars

in all your institutions

in our homes - electronically chained to a system we did not volunteer too

yield to

nor did we consent to

lies are not fiction

they are real and continue to hide the real criminals

cops and social workers

chasing hunting

salivating another Blak-child pursuit

catch them hold them

claiming 'drug addict mother and no father to be found'

child of the state - in the name of the crown

from clown courts

to white foster support

the prey is finally caught

devoured into the system

blak kids taken at rates higher than stolen gen

but tell us how you are 'Sorry' again

while this shit keeps repeating on spin

marketable culture

soft-pink dot paintings printed on

mugs

notebooks

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cushions

curtains

homewares

dresses for inner city white women to wear as they cycle to the election booth to vote for the greens

progress?

we've progressed to capitalism

our culture being re-purposed

to make whites feel comfortable

made in china, sold in k-mart

from slave labour to being followed around in the store

just to remind you that you ain't the type of native they wanna adore

they select the ones that want to recognise

placing them in non-threatening poses and clothes

giving non-threatening opinions

placid natives tamed, beautified, stripped of strength

ready to assimilate

watch these whites take the bait

page after page, exotic native-ware

like savage to citizen to constitutional recognition

our Aboriginality is being turned into the pages of the colony

they refuse to recognise our strength our survival

our resistance our sovereignty

here's my statement from the heart:

get the fuck off my country

a campaign of master deceptors

assimilation obsession

fraudulent statement

begging, requesting

for the slave driver's favour

liberation will never be found in the house or laws of the oppressor

i won't lean in

i refuse to be institutionalised

there's a reason my nanna escaped the orphanages

you've heard our voices

in the deaths in custody paper

in the bringing them home report

closing the gap review

uncle Mabo in the high court

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we speak until our voices are hoarse

cause you can't hear a voice

when your knee is still on my throat

cause of our death: hope, faith and symbolism

murdered by: an ignorant genocidal system

it's a bait and switch

that's why there's so many holes in the pitch

kids in cadell detention centre

NT intervention

up held by 7 consecutive PMs

social work observing while mothers in labour

payment cards on the west coast

government smoke, governmental choke

and this is the system that's gonna heal this shit?

false prophets, false hope

our sovereignty never ceded

but neither has your white supremacy

there is no spiritual in the political

no cultural in the provincial

there is no lore in the opinion

yes there are blak people who are corrupt

yes there are blak people who are culturally bankrupt

bougie blaks

chasing australian order

adjacent to the enemy

causing identity disorder

warrior imitator

vanilla innovator

singing colonisers songs

in language

now how the fuck can you decolonise that

'i still call australia home'...?

we never called home 'australia' to begin with

neo-liberal Aboriginals

cosplaying culture

like a white person at WOMAD

time for you to repent

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time for you to relent

time to sit back on country

not in the lap of meritocracy

you went from songlines to sellout-legacy

and you're meant to be emblematic of our community?

Whites always getting off so easily

your only task is to rock up on voting day

then you can return to your houses on stolen land

to rest easy, knowing the whites are still in command

mission managers

a paternalistic grip

 fuelled by your white-guilt trip

“we just wanna help break the Indigenous glass ceiling”

how about, just pay the rent and fuck off with your feelings

you try to infiltrate

chasing Blak dick

for a Blak kid

still don't make you Blak, sis

chasing Blak jobs

for Blak money

still don't make you Blak, buddy

our community, not yours

we are not yours

your country is racist

your government is racist

your departments are racist

your no vote, your yes vote is racist

the whole campaign is racist

this has caused more pain than it can solve

when you put Aboriginal issues into the binary of white politics

it's Aboriginal people who are always going to lose

always going to be bruised

offering colonial crumbs

maybe a seat, a meal at their table

while side tracking, land snatching

kid stealing if they are able

time to revolt

time for revolution

take back the farms and productions lines

liberate land, liberate the minds

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liberate sacred sites from destroying mines

break the unions/ labor party bind

we can't wait

nothing will be addressed from them

because government has excused for everything

australia is an illegitimate country

upheld by an unconstitutional constitution

the document, resting in the house of lords

where they plotted and schemed

then reported back their evil deeds

interbreed whited aristocrats

sent in their convicts like feral cats

a royal claim royal reign

more like british shit stain

their legacy is trauma

demonic empire order

and I hope that queen is enjoying her time in hell

don't parody the colony - solutions are abound
tangible outcomes, expand blak ontology

community control over health, legal aid, education,

arts, environment and every occupation

missions thriving - community is medicinal

time for native values

native beliefs

native principles

always was, always will be treaty first

land back, liberation

fuelled by native epistemology

fuelled by native ingenuity

fuelled by native rage

Dominic Guerrero

Endnote

- 1 Dominic Guerrero is a Ngarridjeri and Kurna poet, artist and curator. His art practice extends into ceramics, photography and screen-printing. His work has been published in Cordite Review, Granta Magazine and Artlink.
- 2 Image on next page, 'Untitled', by Dominic Guerrero

