

AUSTRALIAN BANQUET: January 26 / 26, 1788

A book by Victoria Cooper + Doug Spowart

This work reflects on the 'turning of the page' in history that Australia Day represents.

One day — January 25th, 1788, First Nations people feasted on a diverse banquet of the food from their local environment that they had sustainably cultivated for thousands of years.

The next day – January 26th. A new paradigm impacted on both the natural environment and First Nations culture. We have used the table setting to symbolise this epic shift.

We feel that in the contemporary milieu of conflicting opinions and voices, it is now timely to acknowledge and listen to the First Nations perspective, culture and history and learn from their deep knowing of this land.

We invite those who encounter this artwork to turn the page, and then hold it up to the light to engage with the visual narrative.

CREATED: 2010 on Australia Day in Toowoomba

MEDIA: A unique state double-sided cyanotype on rice paper broadsheet of 7 variants.

SIZE: 37.6 x 77cm

EXHIBITIONS

2022 *HOME*
Gallery on Ovens, Wangaratta

2015 *Books by Artists*
Webb Gallery, Queensland College of Art

2014 *Artists Books: Reprised*
George Paton Gallery, University of Melbourne

2010 *FINALISTS – Josephine Ulrick & Win Schubert Photography Award* Gold Coast Art Gallery (now HOTA)

COLLECTIONS

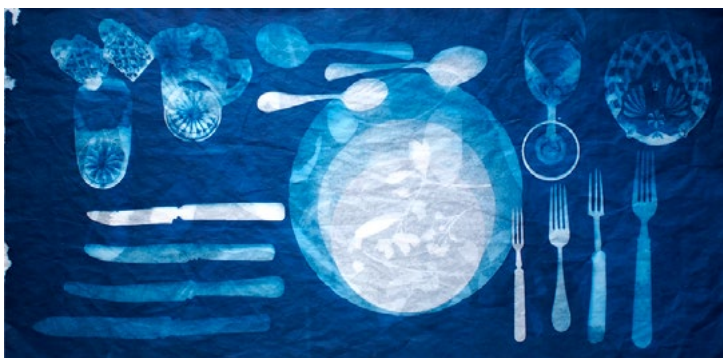
The British Library, UK

Library of Australian Art, State Library of Queensland

1. 25th of January (NOTE: Image shows state #4)



2. Turn the page over to the 26th January side ...



3. Finally hold the sheet up to a light ...

Consider the interrelationship between the two pages.

Through the delicate touch of the page feel the narrative.

