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Looking for Paradise



Looking for Paradise – Book 4

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Looking for Paradise

Book 4

by Nathalie Hartog-Gautier

Cover

Looking for Paradise

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Book 4 of 12 books

100 pages hand made raw cotton paper.

58 cm x 41 cm

Ink drawings, gouache, collages, digital prints.

Typewriter text and relief print with gilding tools.

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About Looking for Paradise

About Nathalie Hartog-Gautier

As an Australian migrant, my life over the past 40 years has been a journey integrating my past, present and future through my art. My work focuses on the voyages of people and the interaction between their new environments and the ecology they bring with them.

This allows me to explore the transformation, attachments, associations and in particular, the intersection between place, memory, and identity underpinned by my own association and relationship with the landscapes of France where I was born and Australia where I live.

Weaving past and present is like seeing your own reflection and reading through it the landscape I have experienced.

Australia is a rich multicultural society and my work responds to this condition. My experiences of journey, of resettlement and of viewing the land with fresh eyes, informs my response to the current political environment.

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A Gallup poll taken in early May 1975 indicated that 54 per cent of those asked believed Vietnam was a happy, peaceful country. Another 17% of those asked believed it was a happy, peaceful country.

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Federal Commission on the Vietnam War, a study which was published in 1975, indicated that 54 per cent of those asked believed Vietnam was a happy, peaceful country.



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Although exact figures are not available, it is believed that 54 per cent of those asked believed Vietnam was a happy, peaceful country. Another 17% of those asked believed it was a happy, peaceful country.

I was profoundly embarrassed by the White Australia Policy and all I could do was to change it.

Is This the lucky Country?

Clockwise from Top Left:

A gallup poll taken in early May 1975 indicated that 54% of Australians believe Vietnamese refugees should be allowed to enter Australia: 61% of coalition voters, 51% Labor voters.

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Sydney Cardinal Freeman made a strongly-worded plea for Australia to accept political refugees from Indo-China.

The Federal Opposition is likely to launch a strong attack on the government for its "pro-communist" policies on Vietnam.

The human tragedy of millions of people caught up in the misery, death and destruction which war brings, is far greater than the material destruction of war.

I was profoundly embarrassed by the White Australia Policy and did all I could to change it.

Although exact figures are not yet available, it is believed 190 of the 313 passengers on board the US Air force C5A galaxy which crashed near Saigon were killed.

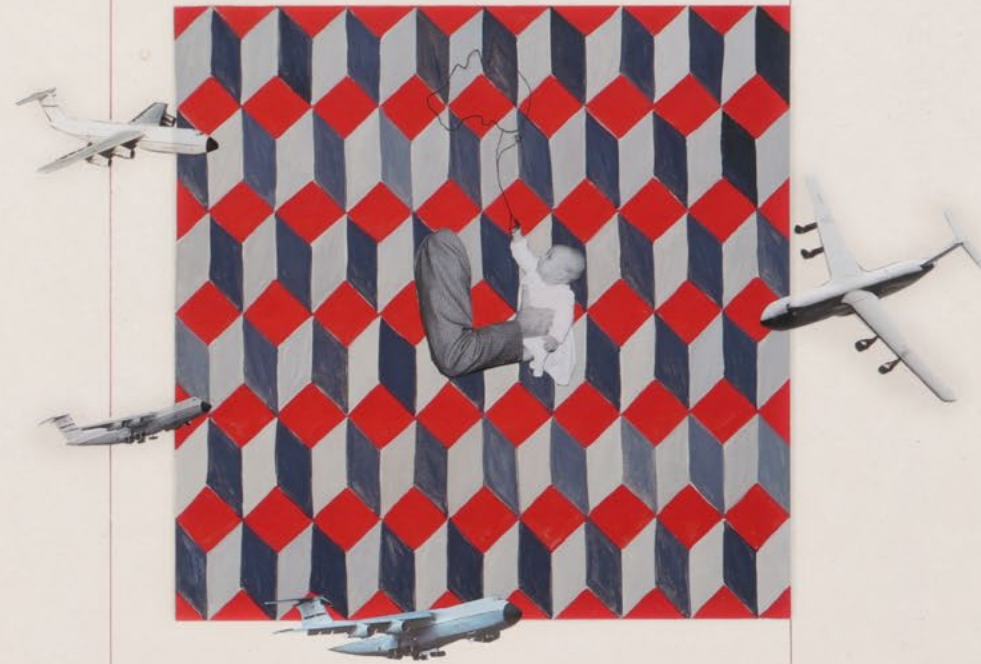
This number is believed to include about 140 Vietnamese war orphans.

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ARTICLE 4

REFUGEES HAVE THE RIGHT TO SEEK AND ENJOY ASYLUM FROM PERSECUTION IN
ANOTHER COUNTRY WITHOUT HAVING THEIR ENTRY PREVENTED AND WITHOUT
BEING PENALIZED.

THIS IS RESTATEMENT OF ARTICLE 31 OF THE REFUGEE CONVENTION AND IS
FURTHER SUPPORTED BY EXECUTIVE CONCLUSIONS NUMBERS 5 (1977), 22 (1981) AND
82 (1997).



Declaration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

ARTICLE 4

Refugees have the right to seek and enjoy asylum from persecution in another country without having their entry prevented and without being penalised.

This is restatement of article 31 of the refugee convention and is further supported by ExCom conclusion numbers 5 (1977), 22 (1981) and 80 (1997).

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FEWER THAN 700 AUSTRALIANS REPORTED VIETNAM WAS

THEIR BIRTH PLACE IN THE 1971 CENSUS.

BUT THAT NUMBER GREW TO MORE

THAN 80000 15 YEARS LATER





THE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ACT

On October 31, 1975, the last month of the Whitlam Government, the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 was enacted. This legislation remains one of the most important human rights protections in Australia. The legislation made it unlawful to unfairly discriminate against someone on the basis of their ethnicity or national origin in the areas of: access to employment, pay and working conditions, equal treatment before the law, access to housing and accommodation, access to goods and services, Membership of a trade union.

It also made it unlawful to incite others to discriminate in these ways. The legislation ratified Australia's adoption of the United Nation Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. This means that the Act overrides any state or territory laws that are inconsistent with it, using the constitutional authority of the "foreign affairs power". At his speech proclaiming the act, Whitlam said that "by this act we shall be doing our best to redress past injustice and build a more just and tolerant future". The constitutionality of the Racial Discrimination Act was challenged in the High Court by the Queensland Bjelke-Peterson Government, but the court upheld the validity of the legislation.

The Whitlam Government also attempted to establish a more complete framework by introducing the



Human Rights Bill, which would have given force to Australia's ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966.

ABOLITION OF THE WHITE AUSTRALIA POLICY

Although many aspects of the White Australia policy had been removed in the years prior to the election of the Whitlam Government, discriminatory measures remained. Certain privileges and advantages were given to white or British migrants, and denied to others. The Whitlam Government acted to remove this discrimination. Before the election of the Whitlam Government, the Assisted Passage Migration Scheme, which provided financial assistance to new migrants, discriminated against non-British migrants on the basis of their ethnicity. The Whitlam Government extended the scheme to include immigrants of any ethnicity... Migrants from non-Commonwealth nations had to reside in Australia for 5 years before they were eligible for citizenship, whereas Commonwealth migrants could qualify after 1 year of residing in Australia. The Australia Citizenship Act 1973 meant all migrants, were eligible after 3 years residence.

MULTICULTURAL POLICY

The Government was responsible for the introduction of the official policy of multiculturalism. With the introduction of translation services, multicultural radio services...



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[continued read text 2 ->]

The Racial Discrimination Act (continued)

Abolishment of the White Australia Policy

Although many aspects of the White Australia Policy had been removed in the years prior to the election of the Whitlam Government, discriminatory measures in immigration remained. Certain privileges and advantages were given to white or British migrants, and denied to others. The Whitlam Government acted to remove this discrimination.

Before the election of the Whitlam Government, the Assisted Passage Migration Scheme, which provided financial assistance to new migrants, discriminated against immigrants on the basis of their ethnicity. The Whitlam Government extended the scheme to include immigrants of any ethnicity.

Eligibility for citizenship was made more equitable. Before the Whitlam Government passed the Australian Citizenship Act 1973, migrants from non-Commonwealth nations had to reside in Australia for five years before they were eligible for citizenship, whereas Commonwealth migrants could qualify after one year of residing in Australia. The Whitlam Government's

legislation meant that all immigrants, regardless of their origin, were eligible after three years' residence in Australia.

Multicultural Policy

The Whitlam Government was responsible for the introduction of the official policy of multiculturalism, whereby government policies would encourage the notion that cultural differences within society should be accepted and celebrated. The first expressions of this policy were the introduction of new translation services for migrants, the establishment of multicultural radio services, and the incorporation of multiculturalism into health, welfare and education policy. Immigration Minister Al Grassby was an enthusiastic advocate of the principles of multiculturalism, passionately arguing for the benefits of cultural diversity and the importance of social harmony and tolerance.

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I WAS PROFOUNDLY
EMBARRASSED BY THE
WHITE AUSTRALIA POLICY
AND DID ALL I COULD
TO CHANGE IT.

QUOTE IN PAUL KELLY'S

100 YEARS-THE AUSTRALIAN STORY PUBLISHED IN 2001

I WAS PROFOUNDLY
EMBARRASSED BY THE
WHITE AUSTRALIA POLICY
AND TO ALL I COULD
TO FIGHT IT.

JOHN W. BROWN

OF THE AUSTRALIAN STATES



An interactive version* of this book with further information and resources can be downloaded from www.nathaliehartog.com.au

* requires Acrobat Reader on a laptop or desktop computer