

# PAOLA BALLA

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## Indigenous Activist and Artist

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**Class grouping:**  
**Time:**

Whole class and pairs/small groups  
60-90 minutes

**Purpose:**

To introduce students to the work and activism of Paola Balla prior to visiting the Her Place exhibition. Students will contemplate their existing knowledge of Australia's Indigenous people and their history, as well as their knowledge of activism and activists.

**Activity:**

**Introduction**

“Today we are going to learn from Paola Balla. Paola is a Wemba-Wemba and Gunditjmara woman of Italian and Chinese heritage. She is an artist, curator, speaker, educator and cultural producer – having developed Footscray Community Arts Centre's first Indigenous Arts and Cultural program, and as a Senior Curator of the First Peoples exhibition, Melbourne Museum.”

## Activity:

### Warm-up

Students to discuss in small groups what activism means. Students can share their understanding of activism and any names of activist such as Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks etc.

### Launch

Students to then brainstorm all of the current issues in Australia and the world that could be worth campaigning for. You may want to suggest feminism, racism or refugees.

### Explore

Ask students to pick a topic that they feel most passionate about and create a piece of artwork for it. This could include a photograph, drawing, painting, magazine cover or anything else that the students could do artistically.

### Summarise

Have students volunteer to share their piece of work and explain what it means to them and why.

