

AUDIO DESCRIPTION | KARLA DICKENS

This audio file describes the artwork *Return to Sender #10*, created by Karla Dickens.

Karla Dickens is a Wiradjuri artist, born in 1967.

Made in 2021, *Return to Sender #10* is an inkjet print on paper. Horizontally oriented, it measures just over 130 centimetres by 102 centimetres.

Overall, the work depicts the front and back of a vintage postcard. Positioned side by side, the composition is divided into two halves. The left side shows the back of the postcard, featuring muted pink tones. The right side, showing the front, is dark charcoal grey. Across both halves, three large, stylised, rubber-stamp hands are superimposed. In bold red, stacked vertically and pointing to the left, they each contain the capitalised phrase: "RETURN TO SENDER".

Both sides of the postcard appear aged with worn corners and the textures of old card. Soft creases and faded printing suggest an object that has been handled over time.

Much of the original postcard design remains visible. Along the far-left edge, the words "POST CARD" are printed within an ornate Victorian-era border. A pink postage stamp sits in the upper left corner. Towards the centre, black handwritten cursive fills the card with lines of correspondence.

In the upper right, the words "AN AUSTRALIAN NATIVE BARE" are handwritten in graphic white letters. To the left of this text stands the black silhouette of an Aboriginal figure. They face us. Their right hand rests on their hip, while their left hand holds a white lizard by its tail, down at their side. The figure is a caricature. Its outline features voluminous curly hair. And only the whites of the eyes and teeth are visible against the black silhouette.

The three superimposed red hands visually dominate the two halves of the composition. They partially obscure both the handwritten correspondence and the figure.