

# ***Indigenous controversy***



Mansell's mural on Council Building, Victoria Ave. Chatwood  
(now demolished)

**BRYAM MANSELL** executed numerous Aboriginal inspired murals, including a large tiled one on Willoughby Council's Administrative building in Chatswood.

## **Controversy**

Many people felt that Mansell's 'hijacking' of Aboriginal motifs was inappropriate.

Non-indigenous artists need to tread carefully when making use of, respectfully or otherwise, Aboriginal culture.

"Appropriation is as old as art itself," says **Christopher Allen**, The Australian's national art critic. "Homer was already borrowing and reconfiguring things from previous oral traditions."

The Arts Law Council has now developed a set of Indigenous protocols. Protocols are the standards of behaviour, respect and knowledge that need to be adopted when dealing with such sensitive issues. You might even think of them as a code of manners.

**Tiles from Mansell's Chatswood mural are located in the rear yard of the Museum.**