

**The latest technology or traditional recording methods - why not both? An argument for including artists in rock art recording teams**

While the technological advances of the past decades have brought about many exciting changes to the field of rock art research there is a risk that the current focus on the latest gadgetry is overshadowing other methodological approaches. In the Hunter Valley of Australia, a team of Natural History Illustration students from the University of Newcastle have been going into the field to record rock art sites as part of their 'Shared History Project'. They have been working alongside Aboriginal representatives, drone pilots, archaeologists, conservators, historians, archivists, and digital recording specialists using the latest 3D capture technologies to visually document the rock art sites along the sandstone ridge that stretches between Newcastle and Sydney. All of the artworks are shared with the local community, effectively building a sense of connection with the fragile sites. Their interpretive and informative artworks are complementing the latest scientific methods of rock art research and are helping to tell a story that is both comprehensive and emotive and includes illustration of associated stories and environment. In this paper, we will argue that the inclusion of artists in rock art recording teams, alongside specialists using the latest technology, could be a more effective and innovative methodological approach for the future.

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