



Photo: Janie Barrett

Hanging around with the continent's neighbours

Interactions between Indigenous Australians and their near neighbours in Asia were unfolding long before Europeans landed – and those connections are being explored in a new exhibition at the National Art School.

The Neighbour at the Gate features newly commissioned

works by artists Jacky Cheng, Elham Eshraghian-Haakansson, Dennis Golding, Jenna Mayilema Lee, James Nguyen, and James Tylor, and is now open.

"This exhibition seeks to centre connection between First Nations and Asian Australian cultural groups and raise the level of

awareness of those connections, which have existed outside dominant or mainstream culture for as long as humans have come and gone to this continent," curator Clothilde Bullen said.

To enter the exhibition, guests walk through Cheng's new work *Imaginary Homelands* (pictured

above with Bullen), which uses Xuan paper, sumi ink, blend of beeswax and paraffin, natural dyed silk threads, dyed cotton, cotton thread, gold lame thread, Cricula gold cocoons and joss papers.

The Neighbour at the Gate exhibition is free to visit and runs until October 18. Chris Hook