



Queensland University of Technology
Brisbane Australia

This is the author's version of a work that was submitted/accepted for publication in the following source:

[Holland-Batt, Sarah](#) (2013) *An illustrated history of settlement*. [Creative Work]

This file was downloaded from: <http://eprints.qut.edu.au/60618/>

© Copyright 2013 Please consult the author.

Notice: *Changes introduced as a result of publishing processes such as copy-editing and formatting may not be reflected in this document. For a definitive version of this work, please refer to the published source:*

AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF SETTLEMENT
- after Emanuel Phillips Fox

The last thing on the crosshatched horizon
is a smudge of centuries-dead parrots
in the shining black fruit of cabbage trees.

Above it, a turbulent bluster of cloud.
There was weather. The sky boiled.
And there was water – a choppy wedge
puffed with cutters' sails.

This to introduce the idea of bay,
coastline as opening or entry.

On a far headland, two black men
stand warily; one holds up
a toothpick spear
as if to puncture the clouds' drapery.

Colourless stretch of saltgrass and sand,
middleground as featureless filler.

Closer in, a deckhand unfurls
the rose of a flag in the wind,
and two soldiers squat on a dune,
flintlocks cocked off in the distance,
their heads knotted with tidy black ribbons.

And here in the foreground, a Rubenesque swell
of redcoats tumbling over the beach
like a flock of exotic birds.
Faces fat with apple-cheeked Englishness.
Thighs bulging in white breeches.

And a man in the centre with his arm outstretched –

This is where the eye enters.
And often leaves.