



NAIDOC Week Exhibition

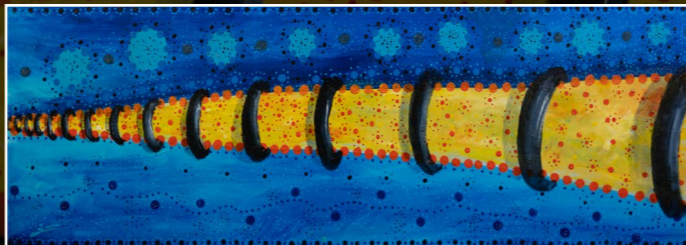
Presented by

The Birrungga Gallery CCDP Cohort

J E M M A
S T E W A R T

Bloodline
2024
acrylic on canvas
122 x 41cm
\$1200

This artwork expresses the strength that I feel when I learn more about my family, ancestors, and culture. It's always been difficult to learn about my ancestors however in recent events I have been able to connect more with my aboriginal family and have learnt a lot more about my origins. This painting depicts a strong vein, with imagery of blood cells inside it. This is a representation of bloodlines. This vein is surrounded by circular structures, which represent ancestors and the family that came before. The vast symbolism and blue colour surrounding the vein represents the culture, stories, and experiences of our ancestors.



J E M M A
S T E W A R T

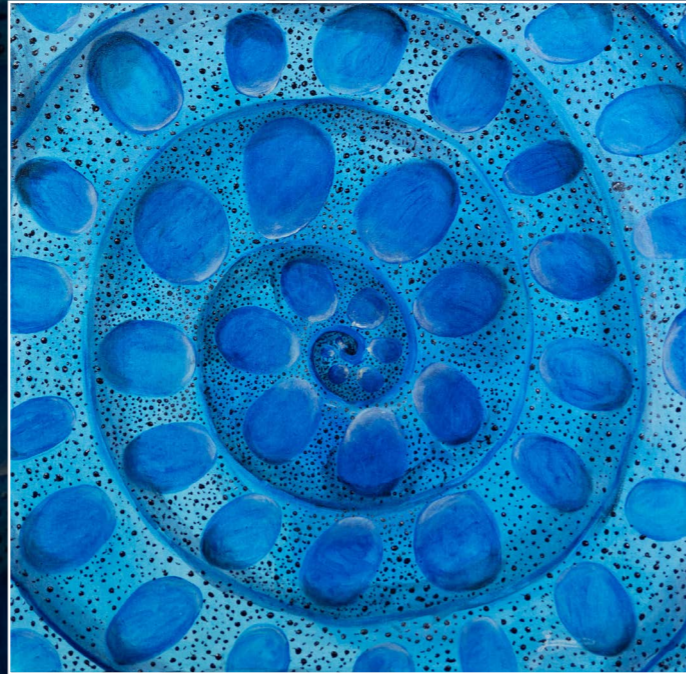
Constant
2024
acrylic on canvas
122 x 91cm
\$995

This picture depicts the constant flow of Aboriginal culture. The painting showcases a landscape and community that is rich in culture, with strong rivers and land. The painting's scattered patches of land signify expansion in both community and environment, while the rivers symbolise the resilience and unceasing flow of Aboriginal culture. This painting demonstrates the importance and strength of our communities, cultures, land and rivers.



J E M M A
S T E W A R T

Storytelling
2024
acrylic on canvas
61 x 61cm
\$650



This painting is a visual representation of storytelling, and stories that have been told for generations. The spiral shows depth, to show the ongoing and endless number of generations that have told the same stories and go on to tell new stories in the future. The circles in the spiral represent generations of storytellers and the small dots scattered all throughout the piece represent the stories themselves.

J E M M A
S T E W A R T

Ash
2024
acrylic on canvas
61 x 61cm
\$750



This painting depicts a burning fire, followed by a vastness of ash, that eventually forms into a green field. The painting represents the growth that follows soon after fire. It expresses to never give up after something significant and difficult happens in life, because good will always come.

J E M M A
S T E W A R T

Power
2024
acrylic on canvas
122 x 91cm
\$990



This painting depicts a burning flame, yarning circles, and the aboriginal flag. This is symbolism of the power of aboriginal culture and community. The flame represents the ongoing strength and power of our ancestors, elders, communities, and culture. The flame also ties in with this year's NAIDOC week theme, "keep the fire burning black loud and proud". The fire produces smoke of varying shapes such as yarning circles. These circles represent community and future.

T I E S H A
M A R T I N

Fishing Trap
2024
acrylic on canvas
77 x 61cm
\$1750



This piece is about the Traditional Fish Traps. Fish traps are the oldest structures in the world and come in all different sizes and shapes. They hold an amazing architectural and agricultural side of our people's history and shows how advanced our culture is.

T I E S H A
M A R T I N

Rebirth
2024
acrylic on canvas
30.5 x 30.5cm
\$950



This piece is about the rebirth of all things. This piece represents the healing and growth on all things scarred. From these scars come great protectors, watching over our people, our land and our continuous healing. The trees represent the past, present and future and that from scars comes healing, protection and accountability.

T I E S H A
M A R T I N

Shielded Perception
2024
acrylic on canvas
51 x 40.5cm
\$1050

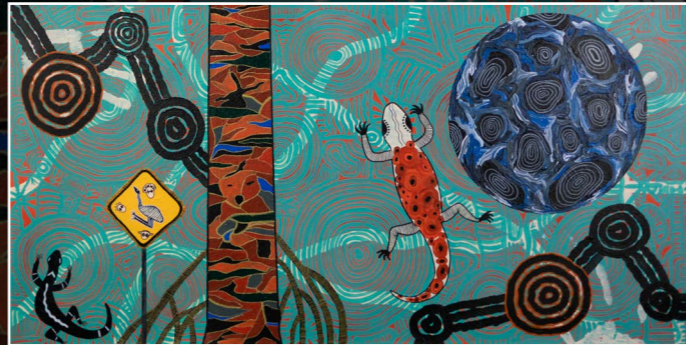


This piece is about the eyes and shield. It tells the story of how to see and not just look. We often shield ourselves from reality and harsh truths that could make us stronger in the end. We shouldn't see these experiences as scary but instead a hard lesson. The symbols in the painting represent our wondrous eyes and a shield that really is our ancestors protecting us.

T I E S H A M A R T I N

Story of the Mangrove
2024
acrylic on canvas
46 x 91cm
\$1450

This piece is the story of the mangrove. Removal of mangroves along rivers of the Eastern Coast of Queensland started taking place in the 1950's to 1970's. This has caused flooding to worsen along the coastal regions and a natural resourceful ecosystem for the animals to be destroyed. I am painting the Mangroves of Wooli NSW and the animals you can find in this area. These mangroves control the tides and are full of so many species of animals. The mangroves need to stay protected and left to thrive to continue many of our traditions.



T I E S H A M A R T I N

Voice
2024
acrylic on canvas
50 x 76cm
\$1650

This piece is about voice. The symbol in the centre is a representation of our voices of the past, present and future. Our fights for justice, land protection and history are strong within us, and we are guided each day to stay accountable for our country and ourselves. The Kookaburras represent voice and guidance. The red rings represent our fights for rights. And the artefacts represent our history.



J E S S I C A S K E E N

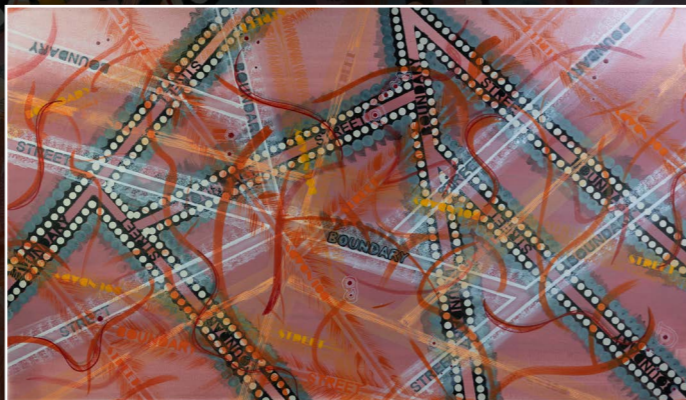
Timeline- A Tribute to Boundary Street
2024
acrylic on canvas
101.6 x 152.4cm
\$6300

In the heart of Brisbane, there lies a street that echoes with the whispers of history. Boundary Street, once a mere thoroughfare, transcends its physicality to embody a timeline of struggles, resilience, and triumphs for Aboriginal people.

Long before the bustling urban landscape took shape, Boundary Street was a boundary indeed – a stark line of division segregating communities based on race. During the dark days of segregation, it bore witness to the systemic oppression and discrimination faced by the First Nations people.

But within its confines, amidst the shadows of injustice, resilience thrived. Despite the critical consequences and oppressive rules imposed upon them, Aboriginal people found ways to assert their identity, reclaim their culture, and resist the forces of assimilation.

In the vibrant colours of hues of a setting sunset, "Timeline," the spirit of Boundary Street lives on – a beacon of hope, a testament to the enduring strength of a people who refused to be defined by boundaries.

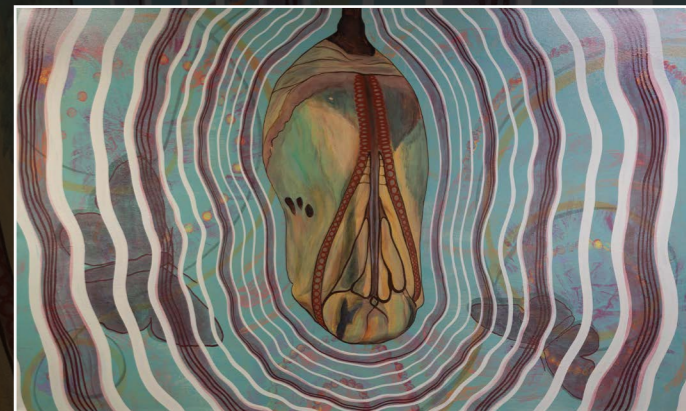


J E S S I C A S K E E N

Emergence of Beauty: Strength Through Adversity
2024
acrylic on canvas
92 x 153cm
\$5500

This artwork encapsulates the "Chrysalis" state we all encounter at different times in our lives. Though it may seem that little is changing on the surface, a profound internal transformation is taking place.

The piece symbolises the struggles and oppression endured by Indigenous peoples, both in our country and worldwide. It delivers a crucial message: never underestimate the strength, resilience, and power that arise from overcoming adversity. These experiences can inspire and drive us to achieve great things for future generations.



J E S S I C A
S K E E N

Guardians of Strength: The Staunch Duo
2024
acrylic on canvas
76 x 115cm
\$4500

This artwork reflects my interpretation of traditional Aboriginal painting, showcasing two staunch animals: the red kangaroo and the saltwater crocodile. The red kangaroo stands for strength and perseverance on the land, while the saltwater crocodile represents dominance and survival in the waters. To honour the tradition and essence of Aboriginal art, I used earthy tones, preserving its authentic feel.



J E S S I C A
S K E E N

Pride
2024
acrylic on canvas
76 x 115cm
\$3400

"Pride" delves into the complexities of Aboriginal identity, transcending blood quantum to underscore the shared heritage that binds individuals together. The suspended tea bag serves as a poignant symbol of intergenerational learning and cultural transmission, where the exchange of wisdom over a cup of tea strengthens one's sense of pride and identity. The Artist recalls many Elders likening a cup of tea to our aboriginality. It doesn't matter if you have it black, white, sweet, strong or weak, in the end it's a beautiful mix that deserves to be appreciated.



J E S S I C A
S K E E N

Unveiling the Silence: Navigating Turbulent Waters Together

2024

acrylic on canvas

121.9 x 152.4cm

\$7500

This artwork speaks volumes about the hidden challenges many face alone in our society. The canvas reveals the conflicting waters individuals navigate dealing with issues such as, domestic violence, mental health disorders and thoughts of suicide to name a few.

As viewers engage with the artwork, they are invited to look beyond the surface of what is shown in our relationships with others and confront the uncomfortable deeper hidden truths.

Each brushstroke becomes a testament to the resilience of those enduring unseen struggles, navigating turbulent waters with quiet resolve. The piece illustrates a potential pathway to liberation from these burdens, though it is not an easy solution. However, with collective support, individuals can emerge victorious from these silent battles.

The artist urges us to change the way we talk about these issues. By tuning in to each other and offering support, we can bridge the gap and begin genuine healing. "Unveiling the Silence" is a reminder to pay attention to those struggling and to start conversations that lead to understanding, empathy and liberation.



N A O M I
G R E E N

Oasis

2024

acrylic on linen

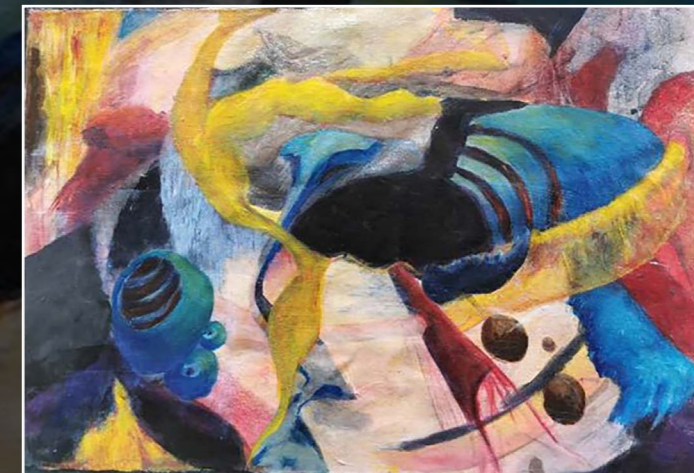
100 x 70cm

\$2500

I completed my PhD on vision and perception and so I have a profound interest in how our eyes and brain work together to interpret the world around us. People often assume that our vision and memory function like a camera, providing an objective and precise representation of our surroundings. However, this is far from the truth. Our brain filters and modifies what we see based on what is important to us, both as a species and as individuals. This means that each person who views a work of art perceives it in a different way, and so the artwork is recreated anew every time it is seen.

In this work, I took images of everyday objects and abstracted and rearranged them until they became unrecognisable. The result is something that feels familiar yet remains elusive, compelling viewers to look within themselves to understand what they see, and why.

With this piece I also wanted to explore and challenge the dimensionality of the work, blending aspects of both 2D and 3D art. As an Indigenous artist who grew up disconnected from my identity, I often feel caught between the traditional 2D art associated with Aboriginal culture and the 3D art that is valued in European societies. In this artwork I refuse to conform to either expectation, instead embracing a fusion of both dimensions.



N A O M I
G R E E N

Titan
2024
Mixed media
50 x 70cm
\$950



This work is based on the original design for "Oasis," but this time, I adhered to that initial design throughout the painting process. With a PhD in vision and perception, I am fascinated by how our brains interpret visual information. Many people believe that what they see and remember is a precise, objective snapshot of the world, much like a photograph. However, research shows that this is far from reality. Our brain shapes what we see, based on what is most important to us as a species and according to our individual experiences.

Although this painting is composed of abstracted, inanimate objects, I perceive a large, lonely monster within it. Perhaps this is because, as a species, living beings—whether companions, prey, or predators—are often more significant to us.

Similar to "Oasis," this work defies the boundaries of 2D and 3D representation. This reflects my personal journey as an Indigenous artist caught between the traditional 2D Aboriginal art often expected of me and the 3D art highly valued by the European society that I was raised in. Here, I embrace both dimensions, refusing to conform to either.

N A O M I
G R E E N

Canopy
2024
Mixed media
50 x 70cm
\$990

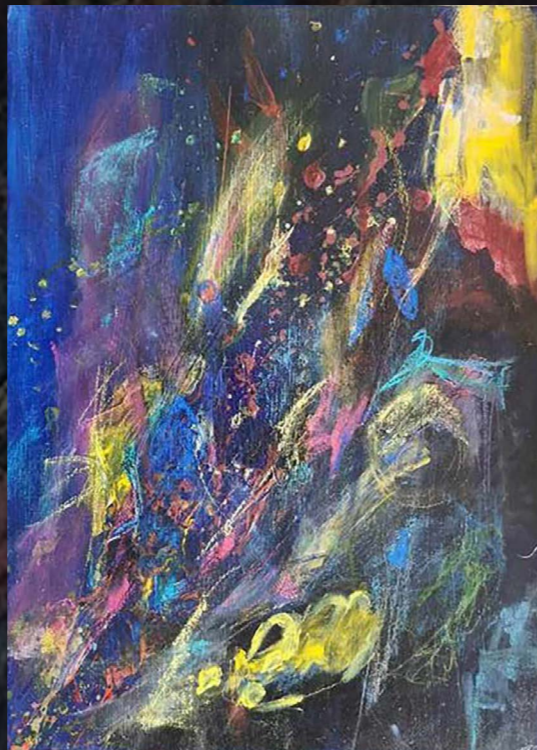


There are two places on this planet where I feel truly at home: the ocean and the rainforest. In this artwork, I aimed to capture the vibrant colours and dynamic energy of the rainforest and its animals and plants. I aimed to convey not only their beauty, but their energy and the peace and connection I experience when I'm there.

N A O M I
G R E E N

Nightsky
2024
Mixed media
50 x 70cm
\$1100

I began this artwork thinking about the ocean and the vibrant hues of a coral reef. However, as I progressed, I realised it also embodies the night sky, with the Milky Way spinning slowly above us. I always invite my Ancestors to paint with me, and sometimes, the stories they want to tell, differ from my own.



K A N E
B R U N J E S

Strength
2024
acrylic on canvas
40 x 50cm
\$7400

Painted is a Shadow Box, a make up of boomerangs, spears and a Nulla Nulla. This references pieces of art that are created in memory of loved ones passed on. My first thought when seeing a Shadow Box is of Cherbourg and Murgon, Wakka Wakka Country, and the artists that have created these in the past and still do today.

I draw great strength and appreciation from growing up in Murgon, and a lot of what I do is connected back to being surrounded and learning from stories shared while on or from Country there.

This work acknowledges all that has been gifted to us by the Ancestors with memory to the lives they lived and the impact they've had on the communities they were in. This brings thought to my life and the consideration to the paths I walk or will walk.



B I R R U N G A W I R A D Y U R I

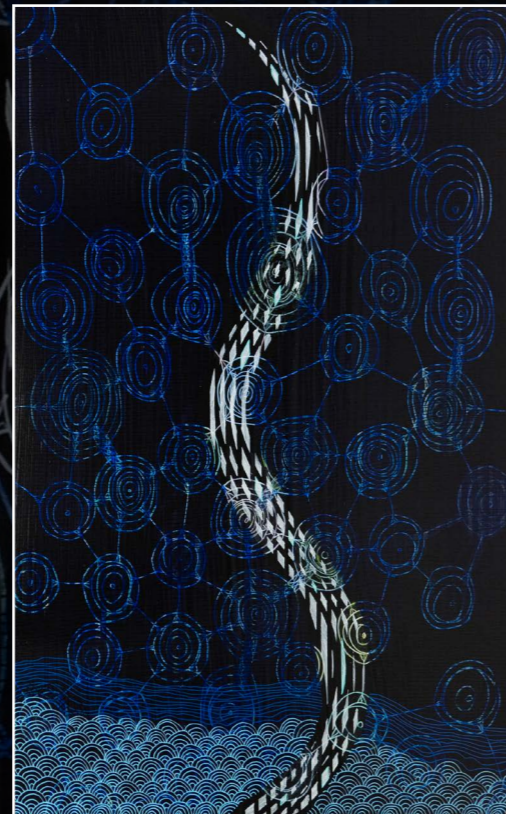
Gulgandara Yaala Dayangun
2024
acrylic on canvas
92 x 61cm
POA

The focus of this work is to honour my Ancestors who've held our Family Lore of Story Telling as well as my Patriarchal line of men who held my Personal Lore of the Sky. I honour those who set the path for those of us now here in the present to walk, for us in turn to set the path for those who will come by passing on our Lore responsibly.

The piece shows the 2 generation skip in my Personal Lore as well as the 5 band crosshatch which denotes our Wiradyuri Central Lore, Yindyamarra; To do Slowly, To be Polite, To be Gentle, To Honour, To Respect.

The crosshatch running counter clockwise around the edge of the canvas refers again to Yindyamarra as well as to our Sacred Smoke.

The central aspect of the piece reflects the earthly and heavenly aspects of Lore that I inhabit.



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5th year.**

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Cultural Narratives. We encourage
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yourself in the powerful
stories and symbolisms behind
each piece.**

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