



Elysia Love-Anderson

Elysia is a proud descendant of the Kamilaroi People of Northern New South Wales and South-West Queensland, and a descendant of the Stolen Generation with strong family connections to the Kokobera People of Kowanyama. From a young age, Elysia has been captivated by art, particularly drawn to vibrant and colourful pieces.

Influenced by members of extended Aboriginal family, who have been prominent artists themselves, Elysia grew up surrounded by their artworks, which have adorned the walls of her Nan and Pop's home for over 22 years. This deep familial connection has greatly impacted her own artistic journey.

Through painting, Elysia seeks to tell striking stories, exploring themes of colour, identity, Culture, patterns, history, family, land, animals, and line work. Her work reflects a profound engagement with heritage, using visual elements to convey rich and personal narratives.

Spirit Bird

2024
acrylic on canvas
60 x 91cm

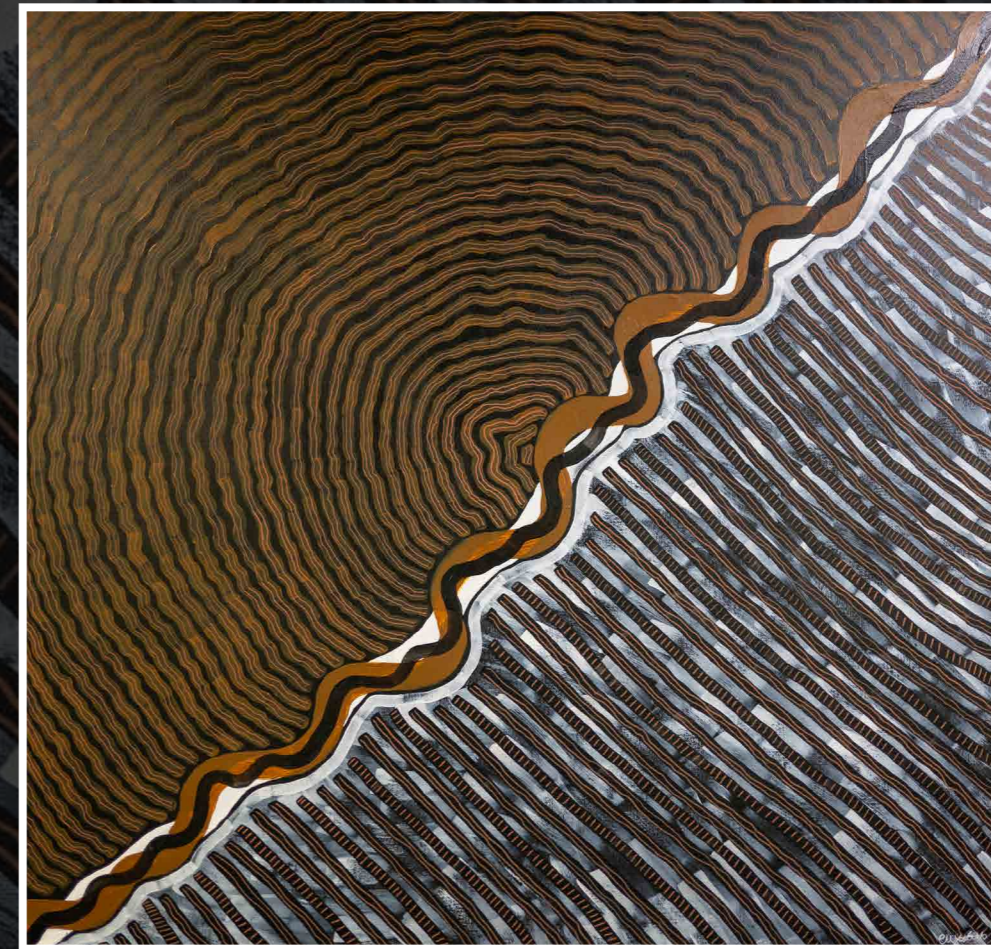
As a child, there was a kookaburra that would sit on my fence and fly into the glass window of my house. I wasn't sure if there was something he could see he wanted, but I felt like he had a message to share. He seemed almost as if he was in a trance, trying to get inside. After completing the work, I saw him differently - because of the elongated body, he looks like a 'wadjina' (spirit) or even as a "god" like ancestor. This ties in with the strong, spiritual connections that mob have to Native animals.



BLAK

2024
acrylic on canvas
91 x 91cm

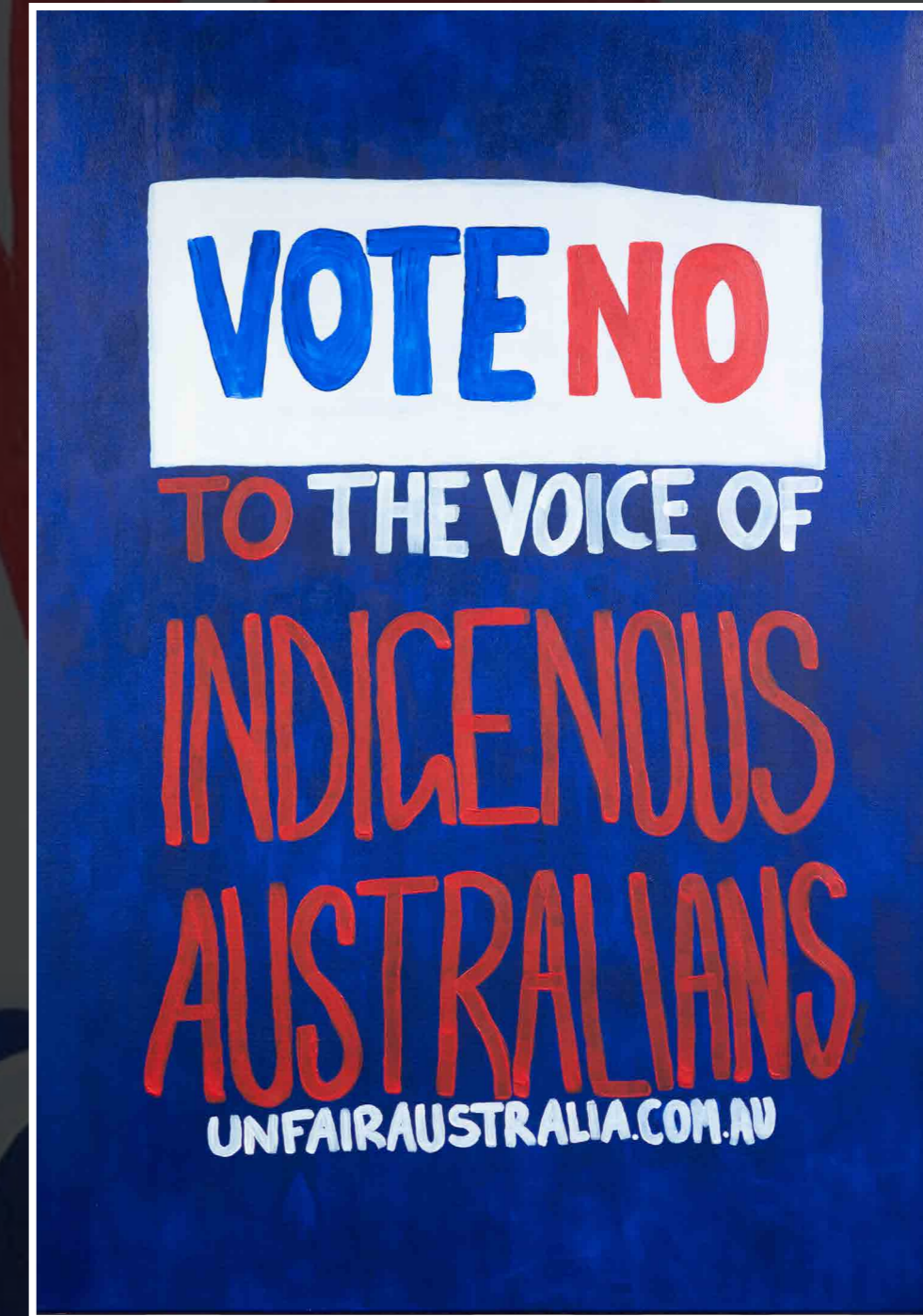
For this piece I wanted the focus to be on the shame that I have felt all my life. About being “too blak for the white kids but also too white for the blak kids.” About navigating two completely different worlds. I may be fairer than some mob, but I am still in tune with and strong in Culture. I wanted there to be a distinct visual difference between both my blak and white “sides.” The black side represents the Cultures I feel most connected to. It surrounds me and never lets me forget where I come from.



(UN)FAIR AUSTRALIA

2024
acrylic on canvas
60 x 91cm

This is my representation of a Fair Australia campaign poster from the referendum of 2023. This is how I viewed the many signs that polluted the streets for those long months. I wanted this piece to look half-strung-together, almost dodgy, to show how little care and thought was put into this toxic campaign. My mental health and the health of many other mob were hugely affected during this time, I wanted to make visible, quite frankly what they were really getting at.



Bully Beef

2024
acrylic on canvas
60 x 91cm

I took the given key word for this piece, 'Bully' literally, as Bully has always been in my life and a favourite of mine and my families. Bully beef is eaten by many blackfellas across the Pacific nations. It was introduced back in the early 19th century during war times. In Australia, it started as a product from the colonisation era, Blackfellas have reclaimed it, and it is a very popular ingredient in many dishes for us. However, like many introduced items to us it has terrible health effects as it is highly processed tin meat.



Chasing Wind

2024
acrylic on canvas
61 x 90cm

People chase different things through life, and sometimes these make you lose sight of the important people and things in your life. This life is beautiful; to chase wind is never-ending, Don't be blinded by the wind. I wanted to show how colourful life can be, how of course there is always dark times, but we don't always have to be chasing something better.

I feel for mob especially we, have to try to go that extra mile to be seen as our non-Indigenous peers are; or we feel the need to be more successful because of the pressures and stereotypes from society. Our lives of course have so much dark because of the past and the current times, however we have support from mob all around and do truly have beautiful/ magical lives. We don't always have to be trying to prove ourselves.



Their Energy

2024
acrylic and paint pen on canvas
40 x 50cm

This piece is about my four matriarchs: my nan, grandma, mum and aunty. They have shared their knowledge and given me their strength, have always protected and provided for me, and now I've learnt how to live and protect myself thanks to them. Each of their colours have been mixed to get the colour that represents myself, which is the orange-ochre colour in the middle.

On the corners I've honoured my matriarchal ancestors, whose energy I can't see but I feel often.



