



Title	<i>Large woven mat with feathers, Small woven mat with feathers</i>
Gallery/source	Craft Victoria
Date of purchase	12/7/25
Buying Committee	Sarah George, Fiona Hardie, Wendy Kozica
Shadow members	Fiona Brockhoff, Fiona Edwards, Susan Jones
Dimensions (H X W)	(1) 46cm diameter weaving, 65cm diameter with feathers (2) 15.5cm diameter weaving, 26cm diameter with feathers
Medium	raffia, emu feathers, echidna quills and quandong seeds

### CONTENT/SUBJECT/AESTHETIC QUALITIES

- There are two works, sold separately but intended by us to be hung together. The weaving of both works is highly skilled and very tight.
- The larger work comprises six concentric circles in 4 striking colours - stone, burgundy, orange and green; with emu feathers sewn along the underside of the weaving. This work references the sand dunes at Lake Mungo.
- The smaller work comprises 3 concentric circles in rose, orange and pink. The weaving is surrounded entirely by emu feathers.

### TECHNIQUE

- Aunty Patsy Doolan uses traditional weaving techniques to create incredibly tight and consistent weave. Her weavings use sophisticated colour combinations, as well as traditional embellishments - emu feathers, echidna quills and quandong seeds.

### CONTEXT

- Aunty Patsy Doolan is a Barkindji/Paakantyi woman, living on Country. Her lands are around Mildura, including the region of Lake Mungo, and she has lived both on the Victorian and NSW sides of the Murray River.
- Aunty Patsy was on a panel of speakers at Craft Victoria and told us how her weaving connects her to Country and her family, particularly her grandchildren who are often running around as she weaves.
- Aunty Patsy is a highly respected senior artist, with a specialisation in weaving and jewellery making; she is also very involved in community work, including with the Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (LAECG), the Koori Courts, and Umalek Balit. She is Co-Chair of Hands Up Mallee, Chair of the Mildura Rural City Council's Ngiwa Yarna Committee and a Director of the Board of Arts Mildura.

### COLLECTION STATEMENT

- The Buying Committee were immediately drawn to these works upon entering the gallery to view the exhibition *Dancing Hands*, an exhibition showcasing six Aboriginal women artists at different stages of their careers.

- We were drawn to the colours, and on closer inspection the quality of the weaving, indicated the work of a highly skilled artist. Being able to meet the artist, and hear her story, further endeared us to the work.
- Having acquired a basket weaving by Paula Savage from Moa (Torres Strait Islands) in early 2025, we felt this weaving from almost the other end of the continent confirms the diversity and reach of this traditional cultural practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- These weavings speak to the innovative ways Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples continue to embed and protect cultural knowledge for future generations; and are a powerful reminder of the important role of craft, adornment and making in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and cultures. Dancing Hands showcases six Aboriginal women artists at different stages of their careers working across Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, and South Australia.