

REFLECTIONS

SNOUTCELLER



© 2024 Arts North West

ABN 13 294 582 557

PO Box 801, Glen Innes NSW 2370

www.artsnw.com.au

(02) 6732 4988

office@artsnw.com.au

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

TNEWEGDELWONKCA

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which meet, learn, play and grow.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present and future. We acknowledge the loss and resilience of all First Nations people and are incredibly grateful for the knowledge that remains and the knowledge shared.

FOREWARD

DRAWN

Arts North West created the 'Reflections' project to explore our regional identities and digitally translate art practices from throughout the New England North West to a larger audience, while providing mentoring and skills development opportunities.

Each workshop and artwork has added depth and dimensions to the narratives of our regional lives and celebrates our regional identity while building our creative capacity as a region.

This project moved and transformed to acknowledge and explore the journey of natural fibres through the numerous creative disciplines in our regional setting. At its core 'Reflections' has followed the journey and transformation of raw fibres into experiences of knowledge sharing, creative practices, understanding our surroundings and developing contemporary artworks.

We have explored and reflected on attributes of our countryside; from raw cotton we often see in the fields, to barks and grasses on lands that are rich with history and culture, we have watched these materials transformed, revisited and reimaged to create contemporary arts practices and artworks.

This exhibition captures the collective regional identity of the New England North West throughout our district- from the creatives and cultural knowledge and offerings from Uralla , to Moree, to Armidale, to Wallabadah.

This project was made possible with funding by Create NSW, Regional Arts Australia and Regional Arts NSW. We thank all of our participants, our contributors, our artists and our mentors for this journey that has been rich with offerings, amazing experiences and wonderful creative connections.

FROM OUR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
LAUREN MACKLEY

REFLECTIONS

REFLECT

Arts North West is passionate about strengthening our capacity of talent, experience professional development and community cohesion through the arts in our region.

‘Reflections’ is a project aimed to provide an opportunity for professional networking through a mentor and mentee process that will strengthen our regional identity, provide creative opportunities to learn, grow and share and explore creative interpretations of our creative landscape.

The ‘Reflections’ project engaged two digital media artists *Mike Terry* and *Suzie Wicks* to capture the processes and stories of art making across the North West Region. The artists were paired with aspiring and emerging digital creatives *Ijumaa Stephenson* and *Shae Duncan* to capture art-making throughout the North West. The mentors and mentees have captured community arts workshops in the New England North West through digital media.

Focusing on the stories, the interactions, the texture, the materials, and the process of each workshop. Ultimately reflecting on creative practices that bring communities together. This created a space for reflection on the creation of digital stories, that will be shared in the touring exhibition.

The teams have captured workshops through imagery and sound, then worked collaboratively to create innovative digital presentations to share local stories, acknowledge our creative richness, and the story of regional paper making.

The project's aim is to grow our creative base, embrace our similarities, recognise our creative language, and learn from each other. The Project has created capacity building toward career development in digital media for emerging photographers/videographers and supporting our working artists.

The project has supported the digital creators to visit the venues during the exhibition planning and installation process to grow their skills and learn from gallery curators and exhibition managers.

The stories of creative vitality is shared through this exhibition, extending the theme of ‘Reflection’ while they consider the creative happenings and connectedness through creativity.

MIKE TERRY

YRRET EKIM

– ARMIDALE



ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Mike is a photographer and filmmaker based in Armidale, NSW.

He earned a BA in Communications from the University of Utah in 2010 and was awarded a Fine Art Graduate Scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in 2011 through which he earned an MA in Visual & Media Anthropology from the Freie Universität Berlin in 2013.

Mike has worked in photography, collage, and film for editorial and commercial clientele internationally and has held a lectureship at the Freie Universität Berlin and the Hochschule für Medien, Kunst und Wissenschaft Berlin in arts education and visual anthropology since 2014.

He currently lives in Armidale and recently released the documentary film ROLA (Stone) with Palaeontologist Dr Marissa Betts on the overlap of Aboriginal History and Western Geo-Science in the Armidale region.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Having started my career in analogue photography, there remains an excitement and reverence for working with paper. Digital photography and video have shortened the learning curve and provided me with many opportunities to develop as an artist, but I still print out photos constantly, compulsively, as if I was saving them from an eternal fate of eventual corruption on a hard drive.

It has been a pleasure to work with artists Susie Spencer and Tania Harcourt who share this affinity for the visceral and tactile practice of working with paper and bring it to members of the arts community through workshops.

I hope the short films reveal something about this common interest in working with a delicate but incredibly versatile medium between the artists and those who attended the workshops.

Working with Ijumma to document the workshops in photography and video has been an especially insightful experience for me. Specifically in terms of movement, I have enjoyed seeing how he moves through a space with a camera, working angles and views I wouldn't have noticed or thought of.

It reminds me that even though the outcome is a digital work – a video playing on a screen, like the works on paper and photographic prints in this exhibition, it is still produced by touch and movement.

SUZIE WICKS

SUZIE WICKS

- URALLA



ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Suzie has been at the helm of Fatmoon Studios for over 10 years. An Awgie award winning scriptwriter, she honed her storytelling skills as an animation scriptwriter in Sydney. She has written drama for radio, theatre and produced a number of short films. Suzie loves nothing better than using her creativity for collaborative projects that champion 'unsung' heroes. She has worked as a copywriter, film-maker and screenwriter and revels in bringing all of these skills together.

Suzie enjoys collaborating and brings a swag of community engagement practices, creativity, coupled with a highly honed visual aesthetic and love of a storytelling, to any project.

Suzie is a self-confessed 'Renaissance Creative' and has maintained an active creative life working on short films, sculpture and photography. A range of media including animation, video, radio and theatre. Suzie brings a highly honed visual aesthetic and dry wit to any new project.

An Awgie Award-winning animation scriptwriter, Suzie has worked as a series writer and creative consultant for the development of entertainment, Health and community focused projects. Her clients include Flying Bark Animation, ABC and NSW Health.

Her boutique digital story agency, Fatmoon Studios, makes short-format videos that engage, educate and inspire. Her clients include numerous Health related Government agencies, NGOs and more recently, the UN. With experience in asset-based community development, Suzie is passionate about enabling people to tell their own stories. She has extensive experience working in remote locations and loves the challenge!

ARTIST STATEMENT

The B-doubles rumble by as the Euraba Paper Mill at Bogabilla comes to life for the Open Day in March 2023. With a formidable reputation, The Euraba women's art has not only left a big impression on the local arts community but resonates globally, from Paris to Dubai, to the New South Wales Gallery and the Powerhouse Museum. However, as a creative, I was not prepared for the Aunties' quiet dignity and deep connection to their practice, representing the rich tapestry of the surrounding Aboriginal communities of Bogabilla, Toomelah and Moree.

The Aunties spoke of the communal act of cutting cotton rag while singing and sharing stories; the process as important as the products themselves. The coming together, it seems, is not just to create but also weave the fabric of culture and community. All the Aunties spoke of the importance of bringing in the younger generations to ensure the process is passed on.

The Euraba women's art not only inspired my own creativity but laid bare the individual approach of many non-Indigenous creatives. The process is often isolating and ego driven. However the Euraba woman have highlighted a different approach; humbling me in the presence of their essence and dignity. Their generosity of spirit, evident in both words and art, shines as a beacon, illuminating the importance of cultural exchange and unity in our shared human experience.

SHAE DUNCAN

NACNUD EAH S

- MOREE



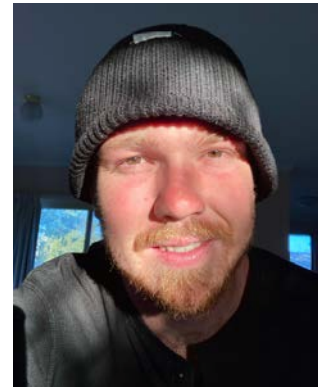
Shae Duncan is a proud Gamilara woman from Moree NSW and is a graduate of NAISDA Dance College with a Diploma in Professional Dance Performance. Shae aims to share and create dance performances within her local community of Moree. Through dance, Shae will provide opportunities to the community for self-development within families for learning, healing, and growing. Throughout Shae's dance career, I've explored many styles of dance from traditional cultural dance, to contemporary dance, jazz, ballet, and more. Shae is in the process of growing her practice with videography and photography to capture the stories that from her work.

Throughout the Reflections Project Shae has learnt about the Euraba Paper Making Company and the process of what it takes to create hand made paper art. 'My heart was full of respect meeting local Goomeroi Boggabilla/Toomelah artist, the Auntys pride and talent they have towards their art is inspiring. No matter what art form we as Gomerioi artist's use, we are always connecting & sharing culture through our crafts whether that's paper making, music, art or dance. Through this project I've made some connections in my hometown to connect with local Bank Art Museum Moree where I've had an exciting opportunity to be involved with curating upcoming art exhibitions.' - Shae Duncan

IJUMAA STEPHENSON

NOSNEHPETS AAMUJI

- ARMIDALE



Ijumaa is based in Armidale NSW and is a professional photographer and videographer. I jumaa teaches natural movement through his business 'Ijumaa Productions' which connects others to nature and to their body. Ijumaa see's value in life and find's contentment and joy in the little things.

Through the Reflections project Ijumaa was able to expand his knowledge on filming videos and what is required to do so. The highlight of the project for Ijumaa was immersing himself in the workshops behind the camera lense with his mentor Mike Terry. Throughout the project new connections were made and Ijumaa plans to continue networking through process for his own work. After participating in the Reflections project Ijumaa was inspired from all the different phases associated with the mentor and mentee process and appreciated exploring the 'finer details'.

EURABA PAPER MAKERS

SREKAM REPAP ABARUE

The original nine Euraba artists had completed a Visual Arts course at Boggabilla TAFE. Their tutor, Paul West, encouraged them to continue as professional artists. The group of emerging artists started with limited resources and used sunflower stalks and scotch thistles to make their first papers. A local cotton farmer then gave them cotton scraps to use, which the artists pulped and pressed to make distinctive and original works of art.

Historically, Gomeroi women worked with fibre, especially in the making of baskets and weaving. For the Euraba artists, each artwork they produce tells a story of their land and their way of life. Some of the most outstanding works of art produced by the Euraba artists are large-scale, free-hanging paper-pulp murals. These are not painted. Rather, the colours come from cotton lint of various hues that are applied while the newly-formed paper is still moist. Thus, the colours are impregnated into their backing.

The Euraba papermakers began in 1998 and continue to this day. For 26 years they have been a collective of First Nations artists from Bogabilla who are proud that their art links them with their culture and acts as a medium to pass this knowledge on to new generations.

PAINTED RIVER PROJECT

The Painted River Project was developed by Dr Leo Robba of Western Sydney University and delivered in Moree by Bank Art Museum Moree and is a joint venture with Monash Sustainable Development Institute. The project brings together art, science and culture and creates space for diverse community members to share knowledge and build understandings of how we live with the natural world. It aims to nurture transformative thinking and collective action around one of Australia's most contested topics - water.

Following the success of the previous Painted River Projects held in Moree in 2021 and 2022, the 2023 program expanded into a weekend of site-specific "en plein air" art and science sessions held at local riverside locations highlighting our region's unique landscape, agriculture and water life. This year, the Euraba Papermakers of Boggabilla were added as a new partner and a public event was held in late March at the paper mill in Boggabilla. BAMM worked with Toomelah Aboriginal Lands Council, Euraba Papermakers, WSU and TAFE Moree to create this opportunity for community engagement. The day was a great success with the remaining original members, welcoming over 100 visitors, including professional artists, academics and locals community members and schools to the paper mill. The day included speeches from some of the founding members and paper making demonstrations, a performance by Toomelah Public School students, kids art activities and a barbeque lunch. Hopefully this momentum can be carried forward to see the Euraba Paper Company's ongoing success into the future.



SUZIE SPENCER

RECNERS EIZUS

SCREEN PRINTING WORKSHOP

Arts North West has worked with local filmmaker Mike Terry, Ijuuma Stephenson and screen printer Suzie Spencer to capture the creative practices of the New England North West as part of our 'Reflections' project.

A silkscreen workshop workshop was held at the Museum of Printing at the New England Regional Art Museum where Suzie and participants explored the practice of silk screen printing and layering as well as the methodology of screen printing.

Participants explored methods from Suzie's practice such as layered application of prints, different printmaking styles and different approaches to silk screen print making.

Prior to the workshop, participants were asked to think of a simple image based on plants or geometric shapes to work with on the day. The participants applied these to their screens and experimented with the development of the screen and the application of the prints onto paper.

Those who attended, created their own image using small silk screens. The final product was a combined and layered image on the paper from the Euraba papermakers, creating a singular collaborative piece created through this layering process.

The creative process of the workshop was the content of the digital storytelling, captured by Mike Terry and Ijuuma Stephenson. Exploring the learning process of a creative practice and connections made, that binds our regional identity.





TANIA HARTIGAN

NAGITRAH AINAT

PAPER MAKING WORKSHOP

The Art Shack at Wilgabah was the location of the second workshop of the 'Reflections' project. Gomeroi woman, Tania Hartigan invited us to her property to experience "all it's whispers of history and life". the location, her farmstay property, has evidence of sacred sites where Gomeroi people have travelled through and lived there for thousands of years. Tania says, "We all look, but we don't see. Art has taught me to slow down and take in the little details that slip past you when life is at full pace."

Tania shared her knowledge, spoke about the site and the fibres that she has collected that informs her practice. She worked with participants from throughout the New England North West to explore the practice of paper making and the beauty of handmade paper and understand the fibres from the natural environment.

All of the participants created handmade paper from natural fibres including grass clippings, bark and recycled paper and cotton rag.

Tania provided paper from previous workshops for the participants to sketch and paint onto. This gave each participant insight into the changing materiality of handmade paper and the different attributes of different fibres.

The participants have included their drawings, sketches and paper as part of the final exhibition as a collective body of work.







Arts North West is a lead organisation of arts and cultural development across the New England North West. Arts North West was established in 1996 as a Regional Arts Development Program and became an independent Regional Arts Board for the New England North West in 1997. For over 25 years, ANW has been true to its core purpose of regional arts development while also being responsive and agile through the myriad of changes and hardships faced both globally and locally. ANW is proud of our strong community engagement and has established a robust reputation locally, as the peak advisory body for arts in the region.

Arts North West facilitates the development of arts and cultural projects and initiatives across the whole region, building a rich cultural landscape in the New England North West and increasing participation in arts and cultural activities. We build cultural community capacity through advice and advocacy, professional development provision and forging key partnerships and networks throughout the region. Our core business is providing quality advice, information and professional support to artists and organisations. Arts North West is committed to the development and delivery of services that foster opportunities for development, collaboration, facilitation and experiences in the arts, that support and respond to our diverse creative and cultural ecology.

This project was made possible with funding through the Regional Arts Fund.

The Regional Arts Fund is an Australian Government program that supports sustainable cultural development in regional and remote communities in Australia. It is part of the Australian Government's Arts and Cultural Development Program that supports participation in, and access to, Australia's arts and culture through developing and supporting cultural expression. The objectives of the Regional Arts Fund are keyed closely to economic outcomes, leveraged income, community engagement, employment and professional development.

The program is managed by Regional Arts Australia and organisations in each state and territory. In NSW the program is managed by Regional Arts NSW.



Australian Government
Regional Arts Fund



REGIONAL
arts
AUSTRALIA

