



C
A
C

MACARTHUR TEXTILE NETWORK
connections



We pay our respects to the Dharawal people who are the traditional custodians of the land, whose deepening connection to culture and customs have cared for this country for over 60,000 years.
We acknowledge Elders past, present and future for their immense spiritual connection to place which was never ceded.

Dharawal land has always been recognised as a meeting place for people from other lands, and in this spirit we respectfully continue this tradition through the bringing together of our communities through arts and culture.

This Always Was and Always will be Aboriginal land.

MACARTHUR TEXTILE NETWORK

connections

Exhibition: 8 July – 13 August 2023

'Macarthur Textile Network: Connections' presents newly completed work by the Macarthur Textile Network Incorporated. The group states that the exhibition explores the notion that "connections to community, environment and events shape who we are, how we think and what we believe. These connections affect our thoughts, emotions, behaviours and inspire artistic creativity".

In addition to highlighting the diverse individual practices of the artists, 'Connections' presents a large-scale collaborative work initiated by the group following a series of workshops in 2022.

Established in 2010, Macarthur Textile Network set out with the aim to connect artists working with textiles and fibres in the Macarthur area, to foster and develop fibre arts in the community, and promote cooperation between textile artists. The Network, who meet on the first Saturday of each month, host lectures, discussions, exhibitions, demonstrations and workshops.

Artist Talks

Each Wednesday, 11am, Campbelltown Arts Centre

Join Macarthur Textile Network artists at 11am each Wednesday during the exhibition for gallery floor talks.

Guest Speaker: Sharon Peoples

Saturday 5 August 2023, 2pm, Campbelltown Arts Centre

Hear from respected and innovative textile artist, Sharon Peoples who will discuss her artistic practice. Within her practice Sharon explores many forms of gardens, both real and imagined. The fragility of both the environment and the human condition are reflected in her hand and machine embroidery. Sharon has exhibited nationally and internationally. Her work has been collected by both national and state institutions.



Barbara Gower, 'Memories that Inspire II - The Aunts' (detail). Courtesy the artist.

Artwork List

No. ARTWORK DETAILS

PRICE

A1 Carol Bairnsfather **\$900**

'Marriage', synthetic fibres, cotton, silk, 300 x 180cm

The uniting of two people through marriage expands our connections to extended families and communities throughout the world, creating networks of support, love and understanding. My work is filled with symbols of our wedding day: veil, white dress, rings.

A2 Carol Bairnsfather **\$700**

'Niki and Me', cotton, silk, linen, synthetic fibres, 216 x 13cm

Connections to fellow textile artists inspire me through sharing ideas, encouragement to experiment, joint problem solving and friendship generated by common interests. I've combined fragments of Niki's textiles with mine to create this work in memory of Niki - a talented and generous friend.

A3 Kelcie Bryant-Duguid **\$3600**

'Without A Trace', woven newspaper, Sumi ink, 25.4 x 25.4 x 4.5cm each

QR Codes are a symbolic reminder of life during Covid. The pandemic is over? Or are we over it? The personal connections to this disease and how it continues to impact our lives, hospital systems, workforce, economy, and society persist.

This work makes reference to COVID-19. C-A-C's policies on COVID-19 are subject to change in response to NSW Government policies. You can find more information here: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/>

A4 Kelcie Bryant-Duguid **\$860**

'Give Me A Home Among the Gum Trees', newspaper, dye, cotton yarn, 64 x 54cm

Handspun newspaper is used to create a woven tapestry, a centuries old textile technique, to record a symbolic image of Australia's iconic marsupial. Referencing colours from the Pop Art movement, this work draws attention to the plight of the koala.

A5 Jenny Coleman **\$300**

'The Power of the Surf', cotton materials, specialised ribbons, machine thread, paint, decorative papers, 40 x 50cm

My connection to the sea was inspired by a quote by Robert Wyland, an American artist and conservationist: "The ocean stirs the heart, inspires the imagination and brings eternal joy to the soul."

A6 Dale-Myree Dal Santo **\$280**

'Cicada Nest', reclaimed embroidery threads, yarn, vintage cicada pins, 44 x 20cm

Cicada Nest is constructed from reclaimed embroidery threads and vintage pins that once belonged to my grandmother, Adelaide. This connection to her still sits strongly within my art practice, a celebration and love for all things fibre related.

A7 Dale-Myree Dal Santo **\$360**

'Miss Vicki', reclaimed fabric, yarn, cable ties, vintage spider brooch, 90 x 30cm

Connection with creative souls who have donated materials, resources and encouragement culminated in this whimsical winkle – a celebration of artistic creativity. The members of the Macarthur Textile Network continue to inspire me to try new techniques, explore new creative pathways and extend my art practice.

A8 Dale-Myree Dal Santo **NFS**

'Yarning Stools', recycled wooden stools, reclaimed yarn, vintage insect brooches, paper, ink. 3 pieces, dimensions variable

Connection to the stories of our First Nations people and how this can be celebrated through storytelling formed the basis of this sculptural work. Individuals are invited to sit on the stools, read the books and immerse themselves in the celebration of culture.

A9 Vicki Davenport **\$200**

'Whimsical Walk', felt, threads, fabrics, beads, charms, 12 x 62cm

A daily walk along the waterway connects me to the local flora and fauna as they go about their lives as nature intended. I find this an uplifting experience with just a touch of magic in my depiction.

A10 Wendy Davies **NFS**

'Framed', hand dyed calico, photos on organza, embroidery thread, 40 x 44cm

I believe that our environment must be shared with all species. Collecting natural materials to dye fabric and photographing images in Smiths Creek Reserve are important to me. This connects me to what I create, bringing me joy.

A1 Janice Ferrett **NFS**

'Unfurling Ferns, Towering Hollyhocks and Dandelion Clocks', fabric, threads, beads, knitting yarns, 30 x 30cm

My connection with this piece started with a remnant from stash busters, a piece printed in my favourite autumnal tones. The use of freehand stitching, knitting and the incorporation of couched braids and beads has given my humble remnant a new life depicting a fantasy garden.

A12 Sangeetha Gardiner **\$420**
'Roadside Reverie', found bicycle wheel, yarn, thread, rug canvas, dimensions variable
The wheel beckoned from the roadside. An invitation. Can beauty be found in the discarded and overlooked? Sustainable art practices, responsible consumption and the cyclical nature of life are interconnected. A gentle reminder to tread lightly and create with intention.

A13 Barbara Gower **\$350**
'Autumnal Sentinel', vintage kimono silks, perle threads, 123 x 32cm
My connection to trees began as a child climbing our Apricot tree and playing under the old Walnut. Our Pin Oak stands tall and proud, watching over our home and giving protection. In Autumn, it turns into a glowing copper-coloured sentinel.

A14 Barbara Gower **NFS**
'Connections in a Crazy World', vintage kimono Meisen silks, perle thread, 123 x 85cm
A healthy, vibrant community supporting us through life helps our well-being in this slightly crazy world in which we live. My textile community not only gives inspiration to create, but real and honest friendship.

A15 Pauline Grace **NFS**
'Fire Paths of Knowledge', fabric, yarn, card, paint vylene, 13 x 160 x 40cm
The old posters have connected the city with the country folk who have a long history of fighting fires. Generations of firefighters have passed on their knowledge of how to protect, fight and respect the fire paths through the bush.
Vintage posters were sourced from the Royal Fire Service.

A16 Janet Haley **\$100 each**
'Connections', recycled fabric, wool, cotton, 72 x 30 x 5cm
Fabric from previous owners has been dyed, rusted and buried in the earth to reflect my connection with the Australian bush. Stitch, colour and found sticks continues this connection.

A17 Dianne Harris **NFS**
'When All the Rivers Run', calico paper, muslin, silk, cocoons, beads, shells, threads, 30 x 97cm
The recent flooding rains have reconnected dried creek beds and have been a life line for the wild life in many areas of our country. Seeing vision of rivers and creeks teaming with life gives hope for the future.

A18 Verena Heirich **NFS**
'Visiting Nona', wood, fabric, envelopes, stamps, wool, wire, buttons, lavender, ink, paper, metal horse, twine, paint, 77 x 46 x 25cm
The imperfection of memory connects me inextricably to Nona. The smells and sensations of her almost otherworldly chaotic house filled with assortments of fabrics and textiles live on still through my practice.

A19 Susan Hutchinson **NFS**
'Connecting with Trees', inkjet photographs on fabric, embroidery threads, beads, leaves, 30 x 30 x 2.5cm
With global warming, trees are vital for our survival. Though plant photosynthesis, the carbon dioxide in our atmosphere is converted into oxygen which we require to breathe. For the continuation of life as we know it, plant a tree today.

A20 Denise Larrea **\$190**
'Broome Kaleidoscope', fused silk fibres, wool, embroidery thread, beads, soil from Broome, 61 x 31cm
As a kaleidoscope connects colours that delight the eye, so too does the red desert where it meets the aquamarine sea with an outrageously brash display of colour. Day fights the approaching darkness with fiery defiance, connecting sea and sky.

A21 Denise Larrea **\$210**
'Continuity', spun alpaca, felted merino, silk fibres, stranded embroidery thread, wire, 61 x 46cm
A single length of spun alpaca yarn was created through connections with fellow artists. The continuous nature of the yarn amplifies a tree's dependence on its roots, leaves and a solid trunk - all connected for its growth and survival.

A22 Denise Larrea **\$190**
'Waterlilies', felted merino, silk fibres, embroidery thread, wire, 53 x 43cm
Monet's tranquil water lily garden in France, and the water lilies of outback Australia's crocodile infested rivers are connected by their very nature and their ability to inspire the artist, yet a world apart in environment.

A23 Wendy Mied **NFS**
'Nellie, Peachie and Me', vintage linen cloth, digital images, threads, acrylic paints, 122 x 85cm
A forgotten cloth, now transformed, rekindled happy memories of my grandmother and mother. While working on this piece, I came to truly realise just how exquisite their stitching was, and how my love and connection with them has never diminished.

A24 Wendy Mied **\$200**
'Moon Rise', canvas, fabrics, acrylic paints, threads, 45 x 45 x 3.5cm
Late afternoon, a winter's day, and my girl and I have the beach to ourselves. We both cherish this special time, at our special place - just her and me.

A25 Chris Moore **\$795**
'Coco Corella in Bittenbird Lace', eco dyed fabric, chewed calico, satin, lace, 60 x 90cm
With a quilted eco dyed background, cheeky Coco, a Corella, is framed in 'bittenbird' textured fabric. His unique chewed lacework connects the fabric to the bird. The title is a pun as this textile border is similar to Battenberg lace!

A26 Chris Moore **NFS**
'Family Connections', calico, inks, tulle, cotton, 63 x 63cm
After the Covid lockdown, I reflected how visiting grandchildren connect and shape our lives. I used coloured inks on calico, washed and flicked. Covered with fine tulle and free motion stitched, the expressive characters are raw edged, mounted and framed.

A27 Chris Moore **\$350**
'Warmest Love', wool, 2000 x 30cm
For my birthday, my daughter gave me a box of colourful wools. Connecting these crocheted mystical lantern shapes in a random colour scheme, made a delightful wrap and connected our family where generations of women have created with crochet.

A28 Jo Neich **\$200**
'Ties that Bind', men's ties, silk thread, floss, silk ribbon, lace, beads, buttons, embellishments, 33 x 33cm
Ties from family and friends are joined together by stitches and my love of embroidery. Whilst the owners were not all known to each other, they all have an emotional connection to me.

A29 Jo Neich **\$200**
'7x7x7', cotton fabrics, batiks, threads, cords, wool, 88 x 23cm
Seven friends, seven fabrics, seven lives: all connecting with each other in a myriad of ways. Our lives are entwined socially and emotionally, as we share and support each other through life's ups and downs.

A30 Marjorie Power **NFS**
'Coming Home', cotton, varied fabrics, beads, metallic threads, 45 x 45 x 40cm
Seeing little boxes from the plane window excited me to think I was coming home at last. The view of homes, lights and space was a welcome sight, connecting me to home.

A31 Marjorie Power **NFS**
'Memories from Gran', cotton, varied fabrics, crocheted doiles, beads, 50 x 50 x 50cm
Memories of my grandmother crocheting still connect in my mind when I think of her. Some of these pieces crocheted by Gran have been repurposed into an artwork so they can be enjoyed forever.

A32 Sue Reed **\$150**
'Serendipity', recycled fabrics, jewellery, threads, 90 x 43 x 19cm
A workshop with Sydney textile artist Trudy Billingsley, opened up a new world to me, and allowed me to connect my love of recycled textiles and jewellery, with a found passion for punk embroidery.

A33 Maria Rofe **\$350**
'Stronger Together', commercial and plant-dyed fabrics, paper, machine, perle embroidery threads, 100 x 35cm each
My art piece looks at connections within communities. Vibrant communities bring people together, inspire empathy and foster a sense of belonging and shared purpose. In times of disaster, by working together communities can not only survive but also thrive.

A34 Neelam Singhal **\$250 each**
'Marine Treasures I. Majestic Seahorses II. Slow and Steady'
recycled jeans, denim, silk, embroidery threads, indigo dye, cotton print. 2 pieces; dimensions variable
My strong belief in recycling and sustainability with connections to this beautiful earth inspired me to create these works. Each marine creature is made on silk with stitch-resist Shibori, indigo dyed, hand embroidered and appliqued on recycled denim.

A35 Dianne Stimson **\$500**
'The Lost Eucalypts', eco dyed wool blanket, wool gauze, perle threads, felt, 133 x 82cm
Towering eucalypts stand tall on the escarpment as they look down over the flooded valley. Connections with my childhood bring back memories of walks and picnics in the area. I cannot contemplate the next flooding of the valley.

A36 Dianne Stimson **\$300**
'Hanging Out Together', cotton fabrics, embroidery, perle threads, timber stand, 127 x 42 x 35cm
In a community, friendships grow through social and voluntary connections. A chance find of vintage hand towels embroidered with the names of women, inspired me to repurpose and connect them again. These friends are together once more.

A37 Sue Turner **\$340**
'Explosion of Colour', repurposed cotton cut out shapes, embroidery, metallic threads, 52 x 52cm
From an early age I have always felt a connection to colour. It makes me feel alive and vibrant. Colour is everywhere, in my room, clothes, dreams, the natural world and my textile art.

Macarthur Textile Network Collaborative Project

'Connections', 2022, mixed media, dimensions variable

*Connections, like threads that weave,
A tapestry of life to conceive.
Each one unique, each one so dear,
A bond that brings us all so near.*

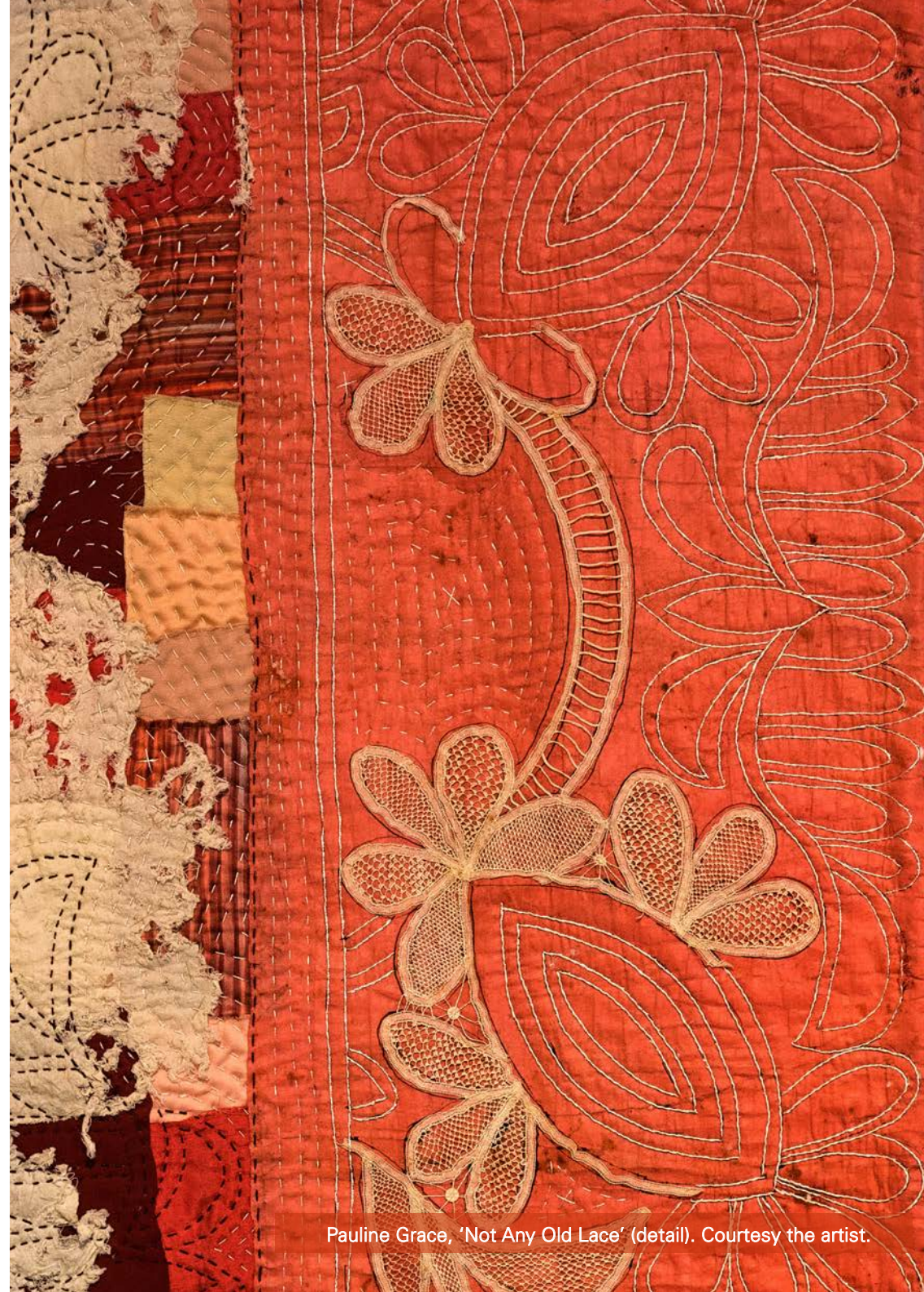
What began as a Macarthur Textile Network workshop in 2022, became a sharing of fibre trash and treasure, ideas and resources to create a scroll with the theme *'Connections'*. Each calico strip shows the artist's personal preference of technique, style, materials and colour. Individually and collectively, the scrolls tell stories that connects us to community, friends, family, places and events.

Project Participants

Carol Bairnsfather
Jenny Coleman
Dale-Myree Dal Santo
Vicki Davenport
Wendy Davies
Lynne Edwards
Sangeetha Gardiner
Barbara Gower
Pauline Grace
Dianne Harris
Susan Hutchinson
Denise Larrea
Wendy Mied
Chris Moore
Jo Neich
Sue Reed
Maria Rofe
Dianne Stimson
Sue Turner

Project Team

Curators:	Emily Rolfe and Isabelle Morgan
Assistant Curators:	Hannah James and Anne-Marie Brockenhuus-Schack
Head of Curatorial:	Adam Porter
Collections Officer:	Sam Spragg
Production Lead:	Brenden Van Hek
Education and Creative Learning:	Timothy George Julia Quinn Samantha Relihan
Media and Communications:	Ella Beer
Design and Marketing:	Donna Vo
Gallery Technicians:	Nicci Bedson Corrigan Fairbairn Paul Greedy David Langosch James Lesjak-Atton Jack Poppert Willa Pratt Thomas Sandberg Brendan Van Hek Jamie Manweiler
Conservation:	Tegan Anthes



Pauline Grace, 'Not Any Old Lace' (detail). Courtesy the artist.

**CAMP
BELL
TOWN
ARTS
CENTRE**



CAMPBELLTOWN



NSW
GOVERNMENT

**PACKER FAMILY
FOUNDATION**



**NEILSON
FOUNDATION**

Located on Dharawal land, Campbelltown Arts Centre is proudly owned by the people of Campbelltown and is a cultural facility of Campbelltown City Council. Campbelltown Arts Centre is assisted by the NSW Government through Create NSW and also receives support from the Packer Family Foundation and the Neilson Foundation.