

Q&A WITH LAKKARI PITT

You're a proud Gamilaroi Yuwaalaraay woman, can you tell us about what that means to you and how this is reflected in your artwork?

It means everything. I was born into a very big Aboriginal family on both sides, my mums side of the family has connections to Walgett, Collarenebri, Angledool and Narran Lake. My father's side of the family is also very big, with connections to Moree, Walgett and surrounding areas.

What inspires me the most is sitting and listening to yarns from my uncles, aunties, cousins, parents, grandparents and other mob. Also being on Country and taking it all in, whether it be up home on Gamilaroi land or wherever I am.



When did you first discover your passion for art and how did you find your medium of choice?

My mother has always been creative, I remember growing up I would always have very creative school assignments because of her help. I was also always obsessed with paper (sounds weird haha), texters and scrapbooking growing up, so I think it naturally flowed on from there.

Growing up seeing Aboriginal art on my family's walls and hearing about the story's behind them or seeing it in a public place like school or a mural under the bridge always made me feel empowered and really proud.

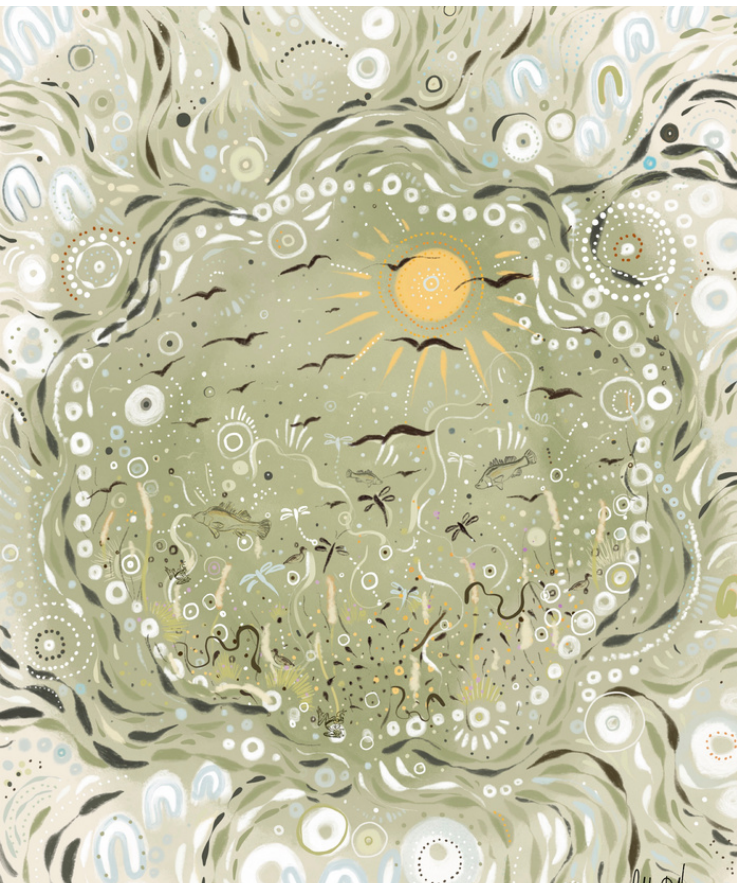
I naturally just gravitated toward acrylic paint. I want to and would love to paint with Ochre from back home more though.



On your website you say your “art explores the movement, essence and stories of Country” – could you elaborate on these three aspects of Country?

I'm always inspired by Country, when I reference the movement and essence of it, I mean the way it makes you feel.

For example, the way the wind naturally moves dirt, leaving a deadly pattern on the ground, things like that is what inspires me. Or hearing about the benefits of a native plant and what our people use them for. The sky also really inspires me, the colours at sunrise and sunset are always so beautiful!



Your artwork descriptions combined the ecological, cultural and spiritual significance of each indicator. Why was this important to do?

They all go hand in hand. Our people looked after the land for thousands of years ensuring that our ecosystems were thriving, which wouldn't be possible without our cultural and spiritual practices and beliefs, they all intertwine.



How did you feel about being asked to collaborate with 2rog Consulting and the University of New England for the MER Program?

It all came about from my Uncle Jason Wilson who worked with both 2rog Consulting and UNE on the MER Program. He provided me with so much cultural knowledge for each artwork and I am so thankful for his guidance and wealth of knowledge.

It was amazing to gain more insight into the Gwydir Wetlands; I have big family connections over that way and in Moree so it was also a way of connecting to the land and my ancestors. Creating the artworks for this project was very close to my heart.

I'd like to thank everyone involved!



To learn more about Lakkari and the artworks she produced through our collaboration, [please click here.](#)