

SONS OF NEW ZEALAND

CREE CLAYTON
TAYLA DONACZY
JACOB BEATTIE
UNCLE ROB JOHNSON
DANNIEL EDWARDS
BAYDEN CLAYTON



SONGLINES presents a vivid collection of works by First Nations artists who currently are based in Swan Hill, Victoria. This exhibition honours their significant and evolving contributions to the Australian artistic landscape, enriching our understanding through shared creation and storytelling.

Though stylistically diverse, these artists are bound by their shared heritage and the enduring resonance of the Songlines – the ancestral pathways and narratives that intricately link them to Country and community. Through this exhibition, we stand grateful for the invitation to share in this profound cultural exchange.

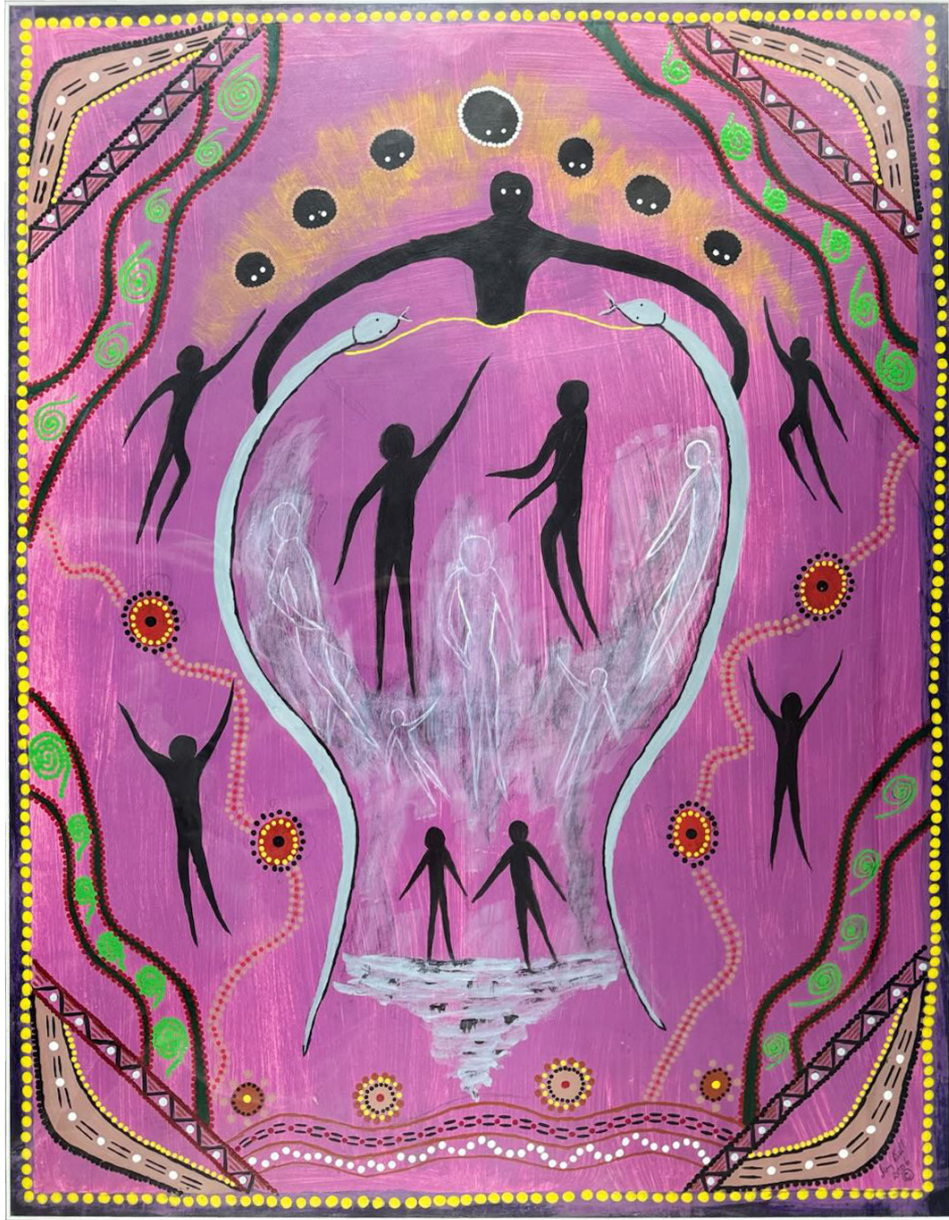
To provide context for these contemporary expressions, the exhibition incorporates historical pieces by past Elders and community members, illuminating the artistic traditions that have moulded and inspired this collective. These foundational works underscore the unbroken lineage of First Nations artistic practice.



Daniel Edwards *Untitled*
Acrylic on canvas 63 x 77cm



Aunty Ivy Bell *Family Resignation*
Acrylic on canvas 32 x 43cm



Aunty Ivy Bell
Untitled
Acrylic on canvas 63 x 77mm



Community Piece
Untitled
Acrylic on canvas
63 x 77mm



Four Aunts
Untitled
Acrylic on canvas
63 x 77mm



Bayden Clayton / Cree Clayton
Pilotang Turt (Shining Stars)
Acrylic on canvas 30 cm (Set of 4)

Bayden Clayton / Cree Clayton
Kethawil Tyekil (Many Lakes)
Acrylic on canvas 90x 60cm

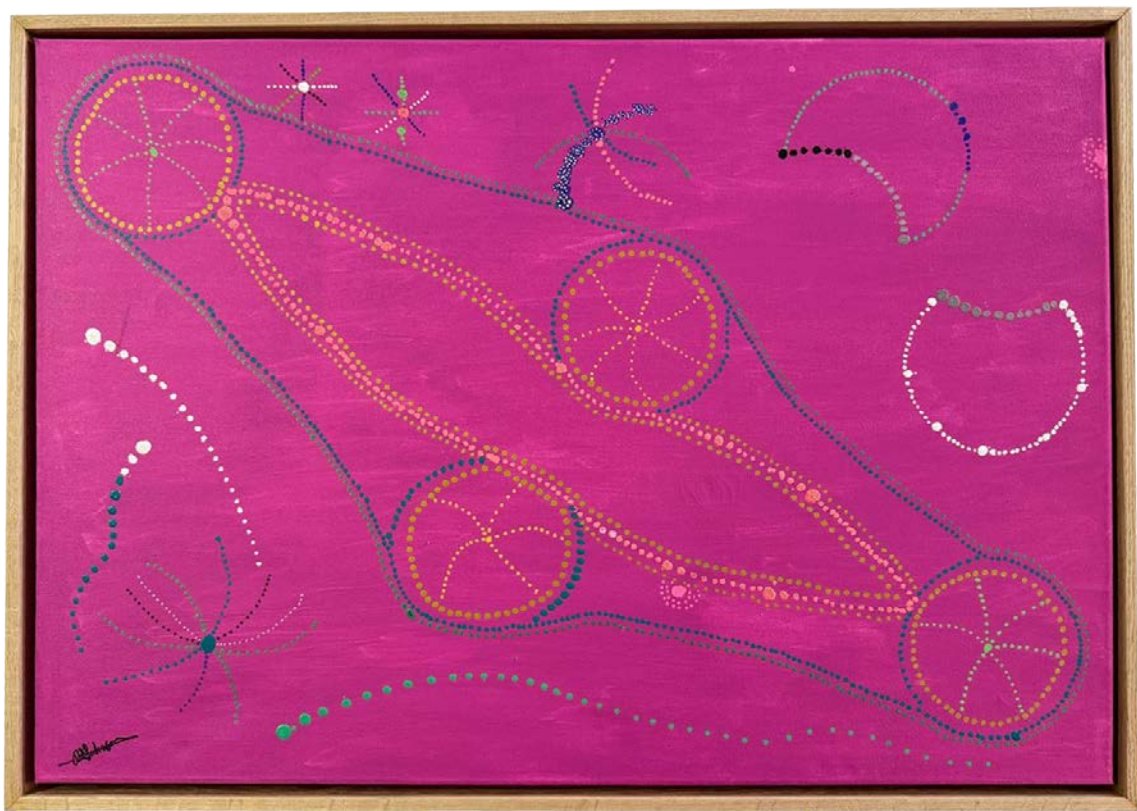




Aaron Nichols *Ricky Bell (Pop)*
Emu Egg 13 x 9 cm



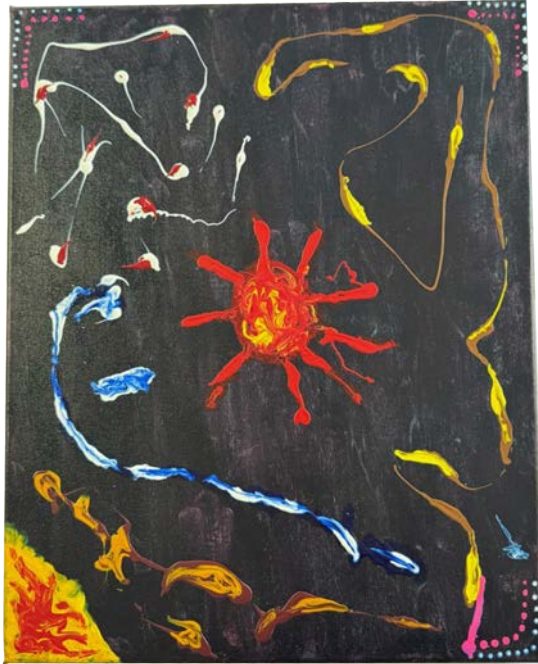
Tayla Donaczy Kiki
Acrylic on canvas 52 x 42 cm



Uncle Robert Johnson *Female*
Oil on Canvas 53 x 73 cm



Uncle Robert Johnson *Turtle*
Acrylic on Wooden Carving 48 x 79 cm



Uncle Robert Johnson *In The Beginning*
Acrylic on Canvas 41 x 51 cm



Uncle Robert Johnson *Whatever You Can See*
Acrylic on Canvas 26 x 31 cm



Uncle Robert Johnson *The Mind*
Acrylic on Canvas 41 x 51 cm



Uncle Robert Johnson *Mother Earth Dream Time*
Acrylic on Canvas 20 x 20 cm



Uncle Robert Johnson *Old Man Emu*
Acrylic on Wooden Carving 47 x 64 cm



Jacob Beattie *The Journey*
Acrylic on Canvas 40 x 50 cm



Bayden Clayton / Cree Clayton
Mityuk (Bark of Tree)
Acrylic and pyrography on bark
Set of 6, Various sizes



Uncle Robert Johnson *The Cod*
Oil on Canvas 34 x 44 cm



Bayden Clayton / Cree Clayton
The Songline of Wirrang Katen (Flowing of Water)
Acrylic, texture paste and red ochre on canvas
30 x 40 cm (Set of 5)



SONGLINES / Featured Artists

Bayden Clayton / Cree Clayton
Piyal Murrenda (Tree of Life)
Acrylic on canvas 30 x 30 cm (Set of 4)

Cree Clayton

(Mutthi Mutthi)



Cree Clayton's art is deeply personal, shaped by family, culture, and storytelling. There is a maternal strength in Cree's practice, an intuitive approach that embraces both tradition and new pathways of expression.

Through quiet confidence, nurtured by sibling collaboration, Cree has found a strong creative voice.

Process is central to Cree's work, with each piece reflecting a journey of self-discovery and experimentation. Nature provides a deep source of meaning, but collaboration is just as important—art is about sharing ideas, supporting others, and finding inspiration in connection. Through this balance of exploration and storytelling, Cree's work captures the evolving relationship between self, culture, and the world.

Jacob Beattie

(Mutthi Mutthi)



Jacob Beattie, a proud Aboriginal man and Jarrah Director, created *The Journey*, a piece that reflects the world that has shaped him. Through traditional mark-making, his patterns echo the paths he has travelled—both physical and spiritual. Each line and symbol carries a story, tracing connections to culture, place, and experience.

Rooted in tradition yet deeply personal, *The Journey* represents movement, growth, and identity. It speaks to the challenges of navigating both his cultural heritage and the non-Indigenous world, finding balance between two spaces. The patterns are not just marks on a surface but a visual record of the lessons, struggles, and resilience that have shaped Jacob's path. His work honours the strength of cultural knowledge, much of which has been passed down from his Elders, including beloved Grandmother, Aunty Ivy Bell, preserving the past while forging a way forward.

Jacob is proud to be part of this show, bringing these stories to life and sharing them with others. It is a celebration of culture, connection, and the power of storytelling through art.

Bayden Clayton

(Wamba Wamba)

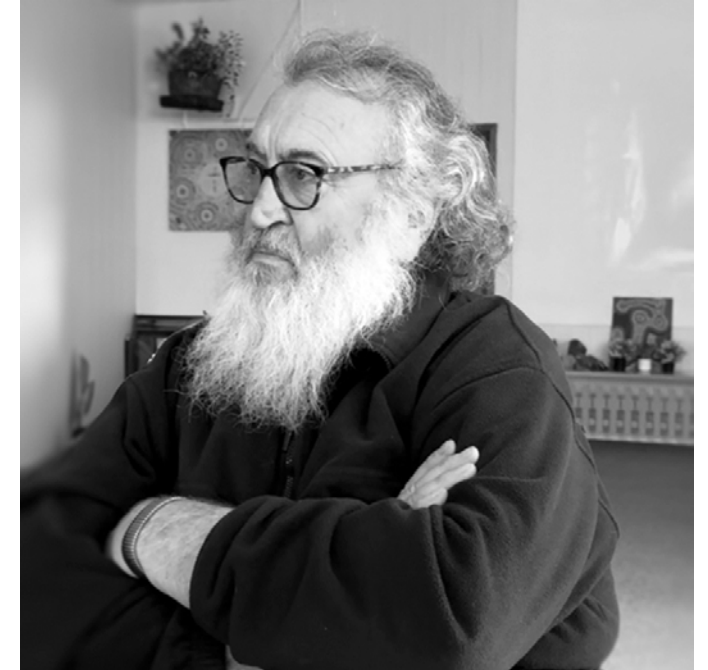


For Bayden Clayton, art is energy—an immersive process that allows him to focus, create, and let go of everything else. A highly creative force, he approaches his work with freedom, experimenting across different mediums rather than confining himself to a single style. His creativity is instinctive, shaped by a love of making and the energy of the process itself.

Nature, community, and heart are strong influences in Bayden's work, particularly in the Elements collection, which explores the forces of fire, water, earth, and air. Inspired by his Nan's creativity, he carries forward a family legacy of artistic expression. His work is about more than just technique—it is about feeling, discovery, and pushing the boundaries of what art can be.

Uncle Robert A Johnson

(Little River People,
Buried in Tasmania)



Uncle Rob's artistic practice is deeply personal, blending storytelling, memory, and emotion into each piece. His work serves as both a release and a reflection—capturing frustrations, attachments, and moments of introspection. His paintings evolve organically, guided by instinct and a deep connection to his subject. With a background in healthcare, many of his works explore themes of mental health, resilience, and identity, while others honour family, community, and Country.

Through his art, Uncle Rob preserves cultural narratives, transforms emotions into visual form, and creates space for connection. Each piece carries a personal message, often finding its way to new homes where its story continues to unfold. He sees painting as not only a form of expression but also a tool for healing, particularly for younger generations. His involvement with the Salvation Army's art initiatives reflects his belief in art as an outlet for creativity and emotional release. For Uncle Rob, every brushstroke holds meaning, and every artwork carries a story worth sharing.

Danniel Edwards

(Wamba Wamba)



Danniel Edwards has a gift for creativity that flows endlessly. He is always making—working across different mediums, exploring new ideas, and bringing form to his vision. For him, a piece is never truly finished, only paused before the next idea takes shape.

He sees the world differently, noticing how light moves, how shapes shift, and how materials respond. His work reflects this ever-changing perspective, evolving with each creation. Despite his immense talent, Danniel remains humble, allowing his art to speak for itself. Whether painting, sculpting, or working with found objects, his process is instinctive and unending. His art is not just about what you see, but how you experience it—how it moves, how it feels, and how it transforms over time.

Tayla Donaczy

(Mutthi Mutthi)



Tayla Donaczy is on a journey of self-discovery, learning and connecting with culture. This path has been challenging, as multiple members of Tayla's family were affected by the Stolen Generation, leaving little knowledge and few stories to be passed down.

Painting became a way to bridge that gap—a means to connect with ancestors and learn the art of storytelling through visual expression. This journey is ongoing, a way to explore identity, share messages, and deepen cultural connection through every brushstroke.

Tayla's mission is to ensure that knowledge and stories are passed down to the next generation, keeping culture alive within the family. Through paint and expression, Tayla is reclaiming lost stories and creating new ones for the future.



Jarrah



SONGLINES is made possible by the extraordinary generosity of the artists, whose passion and dedication are at its heart.

Proudly acknowledging the support of Jarrah, Tyema, and The Salvation Army, whose steadfast collaboration has been instrumental in bringing this vision to life. Through this partnership, and with a shared commitment to celebrating First Nations art and culture, we will continue to walk alongside those who share this vision, ensuring these powerful voices continue to be heard and amplified.

Thank you for enabling SONGLINES to be a space of connection, celebration, and profound cultural exchange.