

# MEDIA RELEASE

11 September 2018



Australian Government

Royal Australian Mint

## Nine metre long artwork from Commonwealth Games comes to Royal Australian Mint

After collecting over 6,000 fingerprints from athletes and dignitaries during the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, a young Aboriginal artist's painting has gone on display for the first time at the Royal Australian Mint (the Mint) in Canberra.

Chern'ee Sutton's nine metre long artwork *Caina Putut, Ilya, Wartanganha - Long ago, Today, Tomorrow* was created during a residency at the Athletes' Village, with guests including His Royal Highness Prince Charles and Dawn Fraser, AC, MBE, making their mark on the painting.

Sutton said she wanted her artwork, which includes unique black-light and 3D elements, to help educate the world about Australia's rich history and culture.

*"Caina Putut, Ilya, Wartanganha* means *Long ago, Today, Tomorrow* in the Kalkadoon language and is a timeline of Australia's history, from Aboriginal people living alongside megafauna to present day Australia," said Ms Sutton.

"During the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, dignitaries, athletes and guests placed their fingerprints in 11 large circles representing the 11 days of competition, while medallists added their fingerprints to the gold, silver and bronze circles representing the medals."

Mark Cartwright, General Manager of Sales and Marketing at the Mint, said that as official medal makers of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, the Mint was proud to continue its connection with the event.

"The Mint is responsible for sharing stories of Australia's past through the medium of coinage and medals. We have a long history of sharing Australia's history through specialised medallic art and are proud to promote the unique art created by Chern'ee with visitors to the Mint," he said.

"Having Chern'ee's painting on display is also special for staff who worked tirelessly on the production of the Commonwealth Games medals and who can now see these medals represented in such a significant artwork."

*Caina Putut, Ilya, Wartanganha - Long ago, Today, Tomorrow* will be on display at the Mint from 11 September 2018 until February 2019. Entry to the Mint is free.



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For more information about Chern'ee Sutton, please visit [www.cherneesutton.com.au](http://www.cherneesutton.com.au).

For more information about the Royal Australian Mint, please visit [www.ramint.gov.au](http://www.ramint.gov.au).

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## For media enquiries:

Alice Brown, [alice.brown@ramint.gov.au](mailto:alice.brown@ramint.gov.au), 0418 164 769 or 6270 3470

## Interview opportunities:

- Chern'ee Sutton, artist
- Mark Cartwright, General Manager of Sales and Marketing, Royal Australian Mint

## Images of Chern'ee Sutton's artwork are available to download here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/uar1xlex089llqd/AAB-jbunzG1JK75dCke6NgI9a?dl=0>

*Note: images from the launch of Chern'ee's artwork at the Mint will be available from 2pm Tuesday, 11 September*

## Artwork specifications:

*Caina Putut, Ilya, Wartanganha – Long ago, Today, Tomorrow*

Chern'ee Sutton

Acrylic on canvas

9m x 1.83m (over 10 canvases)

## About Chern'ee Sutton:

Chern'ee Sutton is a contemporary Indigenous artist whose heritage lies with the Kalkadoon people from the Mount Isa area in Queensland. Sutton, who lives in Bundaberg, Queensland, first started painting when she was 13 and paints mostly on canvas using acrylic and raised acrylic paints.

As an artist in residence for 14 days at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village, Sutton used her family's culture and a desire to share this history with the world, as inspiration for her work. The painting's title *Caina Putut, Ilya, Wartanganha* means *Long ago, Today, Tomorrow* in the Kalkadoon language and measures 9 metres long by 1.83 metres tall.

At just 21 years of age, Sutton's work has also been exhibited at Queensland Parliament and at art fairs in Hong Kong, Singapore and England. In addition to the Commonwealth Games, she has designed pieces for the NRL, Tennis Australia and the AFL.