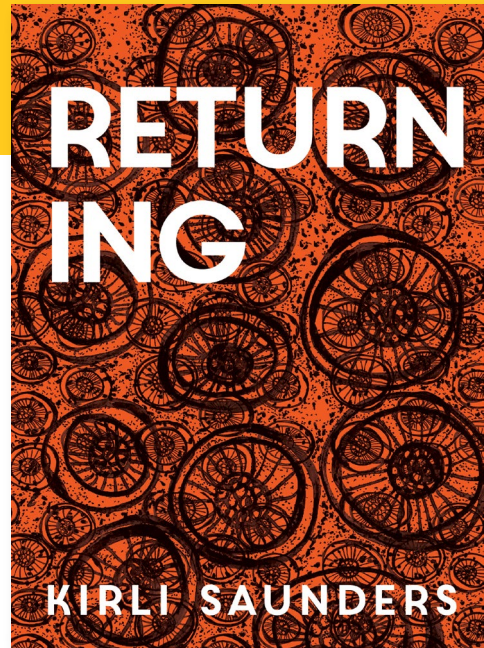


PRESS RELEASE NOVEMBER 2023

Returning

By Kirli Saunders

**Introducing *Returning*
by Kirli Saunders: A poetic
odyssey of rediscovery
and resilience**



Returning is a poetic visual feast by acclaimed Gunai author and artist Kirli Saunders, set to release in November by Magabala Books, and invites readers to delve into a world where words and art intertwine, weaving a narrative of resilience, identity, and the human spirit.

‘*Returning* is more than a book; it’s a journey through words and art that reveals the resilient spirit within every First Nations person,’ says Kirli Saunders. ‘This work speaks to the essence of decolonisation, self-determination, and the power of truth-telling, as we navigate a world shaped by both upheaval and hope.’

In *Returning*, Kirli Saunders captures the profound and complex emotions that come with rediscovering one’s self, Country, and Connection. She addresses contemporary themes of decolonisation, self-determination, First Nations matriarchy, queerness, justice, love, liberation, and truth-telling.

What sets *Returning* apart is its fusion of poetry and visual art. Each poem is accompanied by artwork, forming a symbiotic relationship that brings new depths to the page. The stunning visuals were initially showcased at the SHAC Gallery on Gundungurra land in 2021.

Against the backdrop of a world marked by natural disasters, the COVID pandemic, and the Black Lives Matter Movement, Saunders crafts a resonant exploration of the human experience in times of upheaval.

Magabala Books Publishing Cadet Melena Cole-Manolis says: ‘*Returning* is a beautiful work of poetry and art; a tender and powerful reminder of all the people, places and events that stay buried beneath our skin and make us intrinsically who we are. Congratulations Kirli, Magabala are proud to release your book into the world.’

Available November in all good bookshops and online from Magabala Books — RRP \$29.99

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Returning

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The Author

Kirli Saunders is a renowned Gunai Woman and an accomplished international writer, artist, and cultural consultant. Her impactful contributions span poetry, plays, picture books, and more. She has received numerous awards and accolades, including being named the NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year in 2020. Kirli's artistic endeavors extend to playwriting, visual art, and cultural education, making her a multifaceted force in the creative realm.

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