

I work in a site-specific manner. Where I am, is where I paint. I was in central Australia for the past 5 years before moving back to Melbourne in early 2020. In that time my study was around Mparntwe (Alice Springs), and the central Arrernte region. Since returning to Melbourne I have resided in the northern suburbs and have been studying the Merri creek and its trees near my home. The area we know today as Moreland was, for tens of thousands of years, a sparsely wooded forest with native grasslands that was governed by the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people. The Merri Creek, also known as the “Merri Merri” Creek, means ‘very rocky’ in Woi Wurrung, the traditional language of this country. The Wurundjeri-Willam were the original occupants of what are now the northern suburbs of [Melbourne](#). Their name comes from the Aboriginal word *Wurrun* meaning “white gum tree.”

Emma Stuart 2020