

Murran 

presents



KIRI TAWHAI

Dabakan Koorliny
Dar-buh-karn Cor-lin
Walk Slowly

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Dar-buh-karn Cor-lin

Walk Slowly

***A dedication to slowing down, to taking in the beauty,
to pause, to play, to connect and to breathe.***

Welcome into this veritable explosion of pretty frivolity. To stop the daily grind and remember why we are here on earth. As a proud Noongar woman, I spend a great deal of my life educating others on First Nations ways of doing and being. I march at rallies, I advise on boards and sometimes Cultural load can get far too heavy. I need to remind myself of the beauty Country provides. I need to spend time walking the earth, barefoot in the dirt gathering plants and Caring for Country alongside my kids. Wildflowers connect me to my Ancestors, to my Culture and to my Community.

It takes courage and practise to walk slowly in a contemporary world that champions busyness. To walk slowly keeps me grounded and keeps me kind.

Murran Gallery & Café
January – March, 2024



Kiri Tawhai

Kiri Tawhai is a proud Noongar, Ngāpuhi and Ngāti Tūwharetoa woman who grew up on Jaburara Country amongst the red dirt and the spinifex and the beautiful islands of the Dampier Archipelago. A multimedia artist, Kiri is a storyteller with a passion for learning and sharing Knowledge and respecting old ways of knowing and doing within a contemporary world.



Wowak (Breathe)

180cm x 122cm

Stretched canvas & synthetic polymer

Framed

Wowak means to breathe or take a big breath. Breath is an ancient, and appropriately timeless, tool of healing and spiritual connection. To slow down and concentrate on your own breathing can centre your thinking, calm your heart rate, and connect you more truly to yourself. You can breathe in good vibes and breathe out negativity.

This work represents my connection to Waugal, the major spirit for Noongar people and central to our beliefs and customs. Waugal is a snake or rainbow serpent recognised by Noongar as the giver of life, maintaining all fresh water sources. It was Waugal that made Noongar people custodians of the land. Waugal or waug means soul, spirit or breath. The similarity in word and meaning shows just how spiritual the act of intentional breathing is.

In this work I wanted to share the feeling you get when you breathe, from a spiritual place, with intention and joy. To fill your cup with all that keeps you staunch and aligned on your path.



The word "Arohanui" is a Māori word and, as with many First Nations language, some there is no one direct word when translated into English. Arohanui can mean "big love" or "much love" or "lots of love".

My parents honoured me with the middle name Aroha which means love and in Te reo (Māori language) I love you is Aroha au. This work was painted thinking about all the different ways we think about love. How important it is in its many complex and beautiful forms. From love of family, love of community, love of our friends. Deeply passionate loves, first loves, forever loves and every love in between. Love of life, love of beauty, love found in a moment with a stranger. Love of self.

Arohanui (Much Love)

92cm x 92cm

Stretched canvas & synthetic polymer

Framed

This series was created as a fun depiction of me as a contemporary Aboriginal woman. I have always loved comic books and bright colours with bit of a pop art edge. I've never connected to an often homogenised idea of a "Traditional Aboriginal", whilst I am connected to my Ancestors and to Country and have Cultural Practice I am alive and living now. I have a deep love for video games and graphic novels and celebrate my wonderfully diverse Community.

Each still life shares a snippet of who I am. From the bright colours to the Wagyl paths that make up the tablecloths. See if you can recognise the wildflowers. Some with Ceremonial importance, some food, and some found back on my Country.



Happy Afternoon
20cm x 20cm
Stretched canvas & synthetic polymer
Unframed



Do you want a cuppa?
20cm x 20cm
Stretched canvas & synthetic polymer
Unframed



This painting shows Aboriginal colours and I wanted to explore the idea of what it feels like sometimes to be "on display" much like this beautiful wattle. I will always choose the path of sharing, we can only move forward together. In Noongar language wattle is called coojong, the seeds could be eaten or used to make a damper and it is a great source of protein.

Still, life
40cm x 40cm
Stretched canvas & synthetic polymer
Unframed

These three paintings are repurposed frames and paintings, found at thrift shops and cleaned sanded back and then painted directly on top. A way of exploring a smaller environmental impact in honour of Caring for Country. There will be little scratches or marks, please inspect properly to be happy with your purchase.



Exploring the wild flowers of my childhood home in the Pilbara and compiling favourite wild flowers of family, friends and people I know. Not quite real, not all abstract definitely through my lens. They all come together in a cacophony of colour, beauty and chaos. Much like life.

Wilds Compilation
90cm x 60cm

*Stretched canvas &
synthetic polymer*

*Framed (repurposed
frame and painting)*

Amongst the Flowers

*Social
Installation*

Our Connection to Country is not only important to the health of our environmental spaces it is also a way of understanding ourselves and creating a space of wellbeing and connecting to each other.

This isn't about appropriating Aboriginal art but rather gaining a deeper understanding of storying through art as a Cultural Practice.

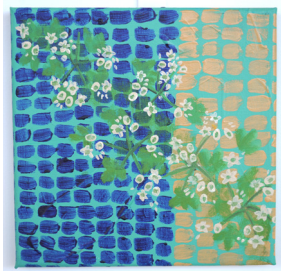
I invite you to have a yarn with those around you while drawing flowers from your own story, your own memories directly on to the canvas.

Slow down, breathe, connect, have a yarn and play in colour.

Moments, Memories and Mates

Chromesthesia is the ability to see music as colour, shape or movement. We know that smells, or sounds lock a memory in to our brains.

This collection explores connecting moments and people through sound and visual form, while also using symbolism of different wildflower species, either in form or colour or through their cultural usage.



There are 49 paintings in this collection. Each painting shares its title with a song. Some are songs that are favourites of friends, favourites of my children, some represent a very special memory. Some are songs tied to my childhood and songs my Mum and Dad loved. I painted each one while listening to its corresponding song.

Scan the Spotify code below each painting to listen as you look. Maybe they will connect you to a moment, memory, or mate.





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