



# Social Impact Report 2020





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# Our Program





Koskela believes that great design can be used to effect social change, and is deeply committed to using our design skills to empower First Nations artists and makers.

We create opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, developing collaborations with our team to create new contemporary design products. By creating an income source, these projects help artists to continue to live a life they have chosen to lead and maintain cultural practices.

To further the development of these opportunities, from 2017 onwards Koskela has committed an additional 1% of all other Koskela product sales to go towards the realisation of these projects with First Nations' owned art centres.

This 1% is derived from the sale of other Koskela items such as furniture and our work on corporate projects, equating to 10% of our profits.

**In 2020 Koskela forged new partnerships with NSW First Nations artists, expanding our commitment to celebrate and communicate the diversity of Indigenous arts and cultures.**







# Our Promise



- Koskela is a registered member of the Indigenous Art Code. The Indigenous Art Code is a system to preserve and promote ethical trading in Indigenous art.

- We conduct all business with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander protocols in place.
- We uphold the cultural and intellectual property rights of the artist.

- When engaging a First Nations community, we work with the community-based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned and governed Art Centre.
- We use written agreements and contracts provided by the Arts Law Centre of Australia.



- We have an Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2018–2020 that provides a framework for our goals to advance the national reconciliation.



# Our Approach





**The Four Pillars of Sustainability**  
define Koskela's commitment to  
support First Nations communities  
and country, their local economies,  
and diversity of cultures.

## 1

### **Environmental Custodianship**

Weaving projects support First Nations-determined care for country

*We come to the art centre every morning doing djama (weaving work). Going home keep doing djama 5, 6, 7 o'clock lights on now. 8, 9 o'clock. At the wanga (home) the grandchildren are helping, collecting firewood and roots, bark and leaves (used for dying natural fibres). This is how they learn their culture and law.*

*The djamarrkuli (kids) came from the school (as part of the Junior Crocodile Rangers program). They are looking at what we are doing and walking around to see the new weaving.*

– Statement by Helen Ganalmirriwuy, Susan Balbunga, Helen Milminydjarrk, Zelda Wuigir, Elizabeth Rukarriwuy and Abigail Mundjala, Milingimbi Arts and Culture



## 2

### **Economic Development**

Our projects contribute to economic independence and self-determination for First Nations communities

We create market-driven impact solutions and support financial literacy

*“I like making lampshades, they are good work to do. I like choosing the colours to use, sometimes two colours, three colours, four colours. I like making them neat and tight so they can be hung up as lights for people.”*

– Cynthia Burke, Tjanpi Desert Weavers

## 3

### **Social Equity**

Almost 100% of our partner artists and makers are women, countering social injustice and inequity

Our projects provide a platform for empowerment via artistic and financial agency, rather than charity

*“I would like to highlight the social sustainability that is innate to weaving practice in Yurrwi (Milingimbi) and the specific social benefits of this collaborative project. With exception of the fabricated frame, the artists’ materials are all locally harvested natural plant based materials. The collection, preparation and weaving together of the fibres are all labour intensive process that set the rhythm of the artist and their communities life.”*

– Milingimbi Arts and Culture Coordinator Rosita Holmes



## 4

### **Cultural Vitality**

We support First Nations art and culture through consultative, collaborative art and design projects

These projects value the artists' artistic freedom and license to preserve and maintain cultural modes of expression as well as adapt them as they see fit

Our collaborations increase awareness of First Nations art and culture by reaching new audiences through diversified projects and products

*"I thought it would be interesting to take our traditional Yolngu materials and use them on "Balanda" objects. We all thought this would be a good way to show a new audience what can be done by Yolngu artists with materials from the bush."*

– Mavis Warrngilna Ganambarr, Elcho Island Arts





# Social Impact Lighting



# Elcho Island Arts

Coordinates: 2.0247° S, 135.5685° E

**Range – Yuta Badayala In a New Light**



Number of  
products: 41



Return to  
community:  
\$47,944.95

## Running Total



Number of  
products: 289



Return to  
community:  
\$302,691.95

## Artists

Mavis Warrngilna, Judy Manany, Margaret Dhorrpuy, Verity Burarrwanga, Sharon Djalambarr, Ruth Lulwarriwuy, Beth Djarrupi Wunungmurra, Megan Yunupingu, Dorothy Yangathu, Rosemary Gutili, Alison Burrnyididi, Priscilla Baladurr, Dorothy Wirritjwirritj, Aggie Warradika, Margaret Gudumurrkuwuy, Mary Guyula, Kerry Malaray, Rosemary Gundjarrangbuy, Nancy Gudaltj, Rosanna Djandi, Helen Gatjikin, Linda Marathuwarr, Daisy Gunygulu, Susan Yirrawurr, Bronwyn Dhumudhumu, Nancy Gudaltj







# Elcho Island Arts

Yuta Badayala is where it all started. A collaboration between Yolngu weavers from Elcho Island Arts and Koskela, resulting in unique, hand woven pendant lamp shades. Each light is unique and relies completely on the individual artist's interpretation of the form.

“

***Koskela came to us with the idea of doing our weaving on lampshades. I was interested in this new idea. I thought it would be interesting to take our traditional Yolngu materials and use them on Balanda objects. We all thought this would be a good way to show a new audience what can be done by Yolngu artists with materials from the bush.***

Mavis Warrngilna Ganambarr, Elcho Island Arts

“

***We feel extremely privileged to have been given an insight into the Yolgnu culture and to have developed relationships with the wonderful weavers at Elcho Island Arts. The lights are so special as they are the embodiment of this culture and spirit and are filled with stories and laughter of their makers.***

Sasha Titchkosky, Koskela





# Tjanpi Desert Weavers

Coordinates: 23.7007° S, 133.8711° E

## Range – Tili Wiru



Number of  
products: 23



Return to  
community:  
\$18,139.81

## Running Total



Number of  
products: 113



Return to  
community:  
\$65,675.81

## Artists

Nancy Nanana Jackson, Joyce James, Tracey Yates, Erica Ikunga Shorty, Loretta Tiku Carroll, Margaret Ngilan Dodd, Rebecca Spencer, Sheena Dodd, Dianne Ungukalpi Golding, Judith Yinyika Chambers, Naomi Kantjuri, Margaret Heffernan Robinson, Margret Smith, Margret Dagg, Eunice Yunurupa Porter, Marinka Burton, Anawari Mitchell Inpiti, Niningka Lewis, Carlene Thompson, Chriselda Farmer, Nancy Jackson Nanana, Polly Jackson, Butler Pawuya, Delilah Shepherd Roberta, Eunice Porter, Yunurupa, Tjunkaya Tapaya, Roshanna Elizabeth Yinga Williamson, Denise Jackson, Julie Anderson, Corinna Shepherd, Myra Malbunka, Maureen Baker, Ruth Bates, Wipana Muwitja Jimmy, Cynthia Burke, Ilawanti Ungkutjuru Ken







# Tjanpi Desert Weavers

Tili Wiru (Beautiful Light in Pitjantjatjara) is a collaboration between Koskela and the Tjanpi weavers; a range of lighting which is filled with the colour and exhilaration found in the Tjanpi Desert Weavers' mixed media sculptural works. The collaboration was a real labour of love, three years in the making, and launched in 2012.

In 2018 the Koskela team ran a lampshade workshop with the Tjanpi Desert Weavers based in Warakurna, WA, expanding the scope of this important social initiative. Tjanpi Desert Weavers was set up by the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council in 1995 and is a social enterprise providing an income source for hundreds of women who go out bush, collect their local grasses (or Tjanpi) and weave them into baskets and sculptures and now lighting.

“

***I only started making Tjanpi recently. Another lady tried to teach me and I said nah, I'm not used to that. But she kept telling me to make Tjanpi so I tried it. Then I got all my raffia so I could make it at home. I haven't stopped making Tjanpi since then. Making Tjanpi keeps me busy all the time. I like to sit down and do it because there's nothing to do. I like making lampshades because they're different shapes. Round and tall. It's fun making something different, having a change.***

Julie Anderson





# Milingimbi Arts and Culture

Coordinates 12.0939° S, 134.8973° E

## Range – Yutta Dugitj



Number of products: 17



Return to community: \$13,095.00

## Running Total



Number of products: 214



Return to community: \$175,428.00

## Artists

Margaret Rarru, Joyce Naliyabu, Helen Ganalmirriwuy, Helen Minminydjarrk, Ruth Nalmakarra, Mandy Batjula Gaykamangu, Sandra Manydjurrpuy, Zelda Wurgjur, Elizabeth Rukarriwuy, Rhonda Gapirrawuy, Kathy Ngulurru, Margaret Dhalwangu Balayu, Abigail Mundjala, Sabrina Roy, Frances Rrikili, Rosetta Wayatja Mandjikay, Jennifer Gigamanawa Brown, Debbie Wuduawuwuy

## Range – Ragudha



Number of products: 72



Return to community: \$27,800.00







Yutta Dugitj

# Milingimbi Arts and Culture

Yutu Dugitj means to grow, or to grow together; the artists at Milingimbi chose this name for their lampshade project as it speaks to the young and old artists working together.

Koskela launched their collaboration with Milingimbi Arts and Culture in 2017, with a large-scale woven commission for corporate client Westpac. The commission consisted of 3 woven pods, the largest spanning 3m, conceived as part of their Reconciliation Plan.

“

***At the art centre we were thinking together how to put the gunga ga bulgur onto the frame but we all use our own miny'tji (design). We all know different ways of weaving and knotting. Putting our work side-by-side with all our different miny'tji together to make one yindi (big) artwork makes it really latju (beautiful).***

Helen Ganalmirriwuy, Susan Balbunga, Helen Milminydjarrk, Zelda Wuigir, Elizabeth Rukarriwuy and Abigail Mundjala





# Moa Arts

Location: Mua Island

Coordinates: 23.7007° S, 133.8711° E

## Range – Kapu Minaral



Number of  
products: 10



Return to  
community:  
\$7,500.00

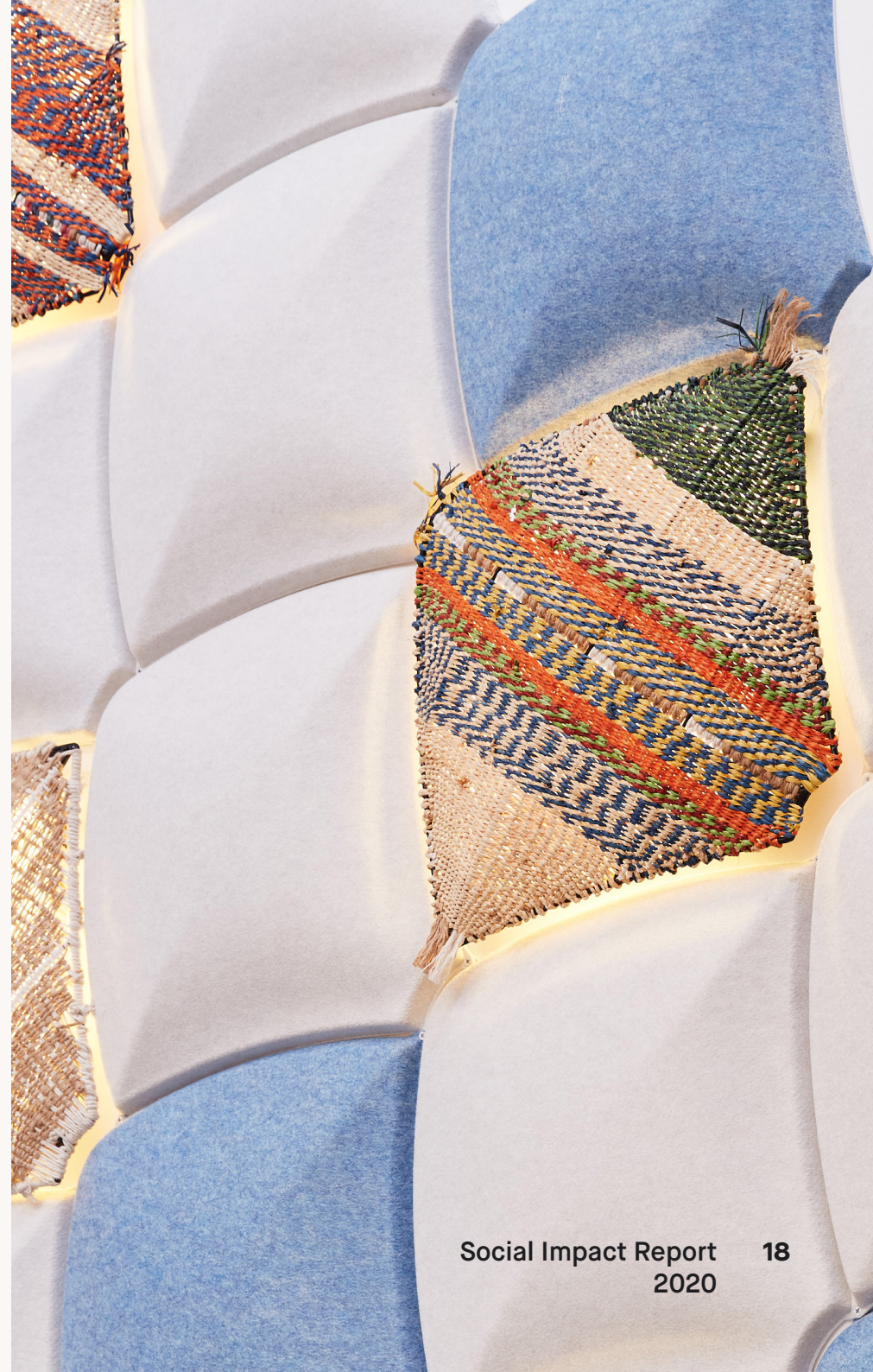
## Range – Taimer Running Total



Number of  
products: 42



Return to  
community:  
\$25,428.00







# Moa Arts

Launched in 2019, Moa Arts' range of lampshades is filled with the colour and exhilaration of the beautiful Torres Strait. Artistic inspiration is drawn from ancestral stories, totemic representation and connections to sea, land, sky and family.

“

***The many colours on the lampshade represents all the children, people from all walks of life and beliefs and cultures. No matter our culture, our background or our nationality, we all share a dream through our spiritual walk of life, that reflects through our heart and is woven through our art. With one heart, and many colours, we are the unique people. Although we are many, we are one.***

Josie Nawia, Moa Arts

“

***This lampshade represent all hopes and dreams of my people. Each colour describes different generations after generations of Moa Island.***

Paula Savage, Moa Arts





# Ngarrindjeri Cultural Weavers

Location: The Coorong  
Coordinates: 140.0222° E, 36.0216° S

Range – Ku:yitapari (fish traps)  
Running Total



Number of  
products: 5



Return to  
community:  
\$3,500.00

Ngarrindjeri weavers, Aunty Ellen Trevorrow, Aunty Noreen Kartinyeri and Bessie Rigney have transformed their sculptural coiled sedge weaving into organic vessels of light. The weavers' Ku:yitapari (fish trap) forms are made from fine bundles of freshwater sedge grasses; they are bound by a single reed, used to wrap the core and bind the coils as the trap is woven.

The Ngarrindjeri weavers collect the rushes around the lakes, rivers and the Coorong areas across Ngarrindjeri Country and are crucial to the sustainable land management of the sedge harvest.



***My main aim in life is to continue this on, to keep it going, to share it and teach it and that was my goal to keep it going and that's what I did. a new audience what can be done by Yolngu artists with materials from the bush.***

Aunty Ellen Trevorrow







# Bula'Bula Arts

Location: Ramingining

Coordinates: 19.4914° S, 132.5510° E

Range – Gurrwillinywirriy Mundan  
Running Total



Number of  
products: 74



Return to  
community:  
\$36,605.00

## Artists

Lena Yangamiyawuy, Lynette Birriran, Evonne Munuyngu Mugunu,  
Mary Dhapalany, Margaret Djarrbalabal Malibirr, Julie Djulibing Malibirr,  
Daphne Banyawarra Banyuwarra







Batjbarra

(scoop)



Bula'Bula Arts  
Location: Ramingining

# Bula'Bula Arts

Koskela started collaborating with Bula'Bula Arts in 2018. The artists of Bula'Bula use traditional Bush string made from the fibres between the bark and the trunk of the kurrajong tree.

The weavers of Ramingining in North East Arnhem Land usually create traditional ceremonial and ritual objects, working together as a group to harvest materials and develop work yet each with their own contemporary colourful and unique designs.

This is one of the first times they have embraced making objects which are not traditional Yolngu objects and the strength of their identity as late career Yolngu Artists is distilled in these lampshades.



# Exhibition Program



Koskela has a firm belief that Australia's unique First Nations cultures need to be celebrated and acknowledged.

That's why in 2020 we re-launched the Koskela Gallery, dedicating the space to works from First Nations art centre partners and artists. We are proud to take this next step, using our platform to increase the visibility and accessibility of Indigenous art by showcasing talent from across the continent.

**In 2020 we presented six exhibitions from a diverse range of countries and communities, showcasing a range of mediums including canvas, print, ceramics, sculpture and bark art.**



Elaine Lane March 7 – April 19

# Warakurna Artists

Artworks sold:  
10



Return to  
community:  
\$9,990.00



Elaine Lane is a senior artist from the Papulankutja (Blackstone) community who paints with Warakurna Artists through the Wanarn Tjilpi and Pampa Painting Program. Elaine's work draws from the Ngaanyatjarra lands of Papulankutja country, depicting sacred sites and natural landscapes. Elaine's paintings are vibrant and diverse, reflecting her unique style and connection to country.

Warakurna Artists is a community operated and owned Art Centre encompassing the Ngaanyatjarra Lands of Western Australia. Established in 2005, Warakurna Artists provides services to artists living and visiting Warakurna and works closely with the nearby community of Wanarn.





Yugul Mangi Group Show April 25 – June 7

# Ngukurr Arts



Artworks sold:  
20



Return to  
community:  
\$9,559.50

Ngukurr Arts: Yugul Mangi Group Show featured the spectacular works of Jill Daniels, Gwenneth Blitner, Norman Wilfred, Karen Rogers and Rebecca Joshua and looked to capture the diversity and unique history of the Ngukurr community. Each artist explored life on country whilst experimenting with colour, vibrancy and landscape.

Since 1988 Ngukurr Arts has been exploring, sharing and developing their style. As a senior artist and lifelong resident of Ngukurr, Gwenneth Blitner enjoys painting every day. She especially enjoys painting the flowers and hills of Ngukurr, using bright colours and pigments to bring her works to life:

“

*When I was a little girl we would go out bush and see beautiful flowers everywhere. So many bush bananas and jojo, and julp. I love looking at flowers everywhere and painting them makes me happy.*

Gwenneth Blitner



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13 June – 26 July

# Linear Nation

Artworks sold:  
16



Return to  
community:  
\$3,167.00



Linear Nation is a collaboration between Jamie-Lea Trindall and Sooty Welsh, a ceramicist duo from Coonamble in outback NSW. Jamie-Lea and Sooty are supported by Outback Arts, a regional arts development organization supporting the community gallery and artist-run studio. Inspired by the surrounding Wailwan County, Jamie-Lea and Sooty express their Aboriginal identity through contemporary artistic forms. the nearby community of Wanarn.



***It has been a great highlight of our professional practice to exhibit with Koskela. Their deep commitment to supporting Aboriginal artists like us is both motivating and inspiring. Our exhibition Linear Nation and the subsequent art sales have been extremely rewarding and highly encouraging for both of us. We have great respect for the Koskela team and their dedication and are proud to be associated with the organisation.***

Jamie-Lea Trindall and Sooty Welsh





Lily Ulah August 1 – 13 September

# Ku Arts



Artworks sold:  
11



Return to  
community:  
\$5,912.00

“

*She painted her country. She came from our West, Spinifex country. When she sat down in Coober Pedy she painted (to remember), painted those tjukulas (waterholes), painted her country.*

– Johnny Ulah (Mrs Lilly Ulah's son)

Lilly Ulah's sense of identity was heavily forged through her connection to the land and surrounding country where she grew up, which she has encapsulated through her paintings. These sites were created by Ancestral Spirits and embody not only her recollections of space but her sense of connection to them.

Lilly Ulah's artworks are sold on behalf of her family who receive the proceeds from the sales.





September 19 – November 1

# Top End Bugi

Artworks sold:  
17



Return to  
community:  
\$19,085.50



Top End Bugi showcased the innovation and expertise of Arnhem Land Artists from Buku-Larrngay Mulka Centre, Ngukurr Arts Aboriginal Corporation and Maningrida Arts and Culture. Presenting a series of works on Stringybark and selection of Larrakitj, Top End Bugi celebrated the creativity and diversity of bark artists, emerging and established.

Connecting city and country, Top End Bugi was the first time Koskela had exhibited bark. The exhibition combined Top End, a collective term given to the northernmost region of the Northern Territory and Bugi, the Darug (Sydney Aboriginal Language) word for bark.





Gomeri Dhigaraagal

# Yinarr Maramali



Artworks sold:  
41



Return to  
community:  
\$13,740.00

Yinarr Maramali: Gomeri Dhigaraagal was inspired by native dhigaraa (birds) and their stories, highlighting their significance to Gomeri stories and teachings. Showcasing an array of fire pieces and a selection of paintings, Gomeri Dhigaraagal was another first for Koskela, in exhibiting NSW woven work.

Yinarr Maramali is a Gomeri women's business dedicated to supporting Community and Country wellbeing through their weaving practice. Based in Tamworth, Yinarr Maramali is a cultural hub and place of learning as artists weave their stories through handwoven creations and artworks.







———— Gomeroi Dhigaraagal

# Yinarr Maramali



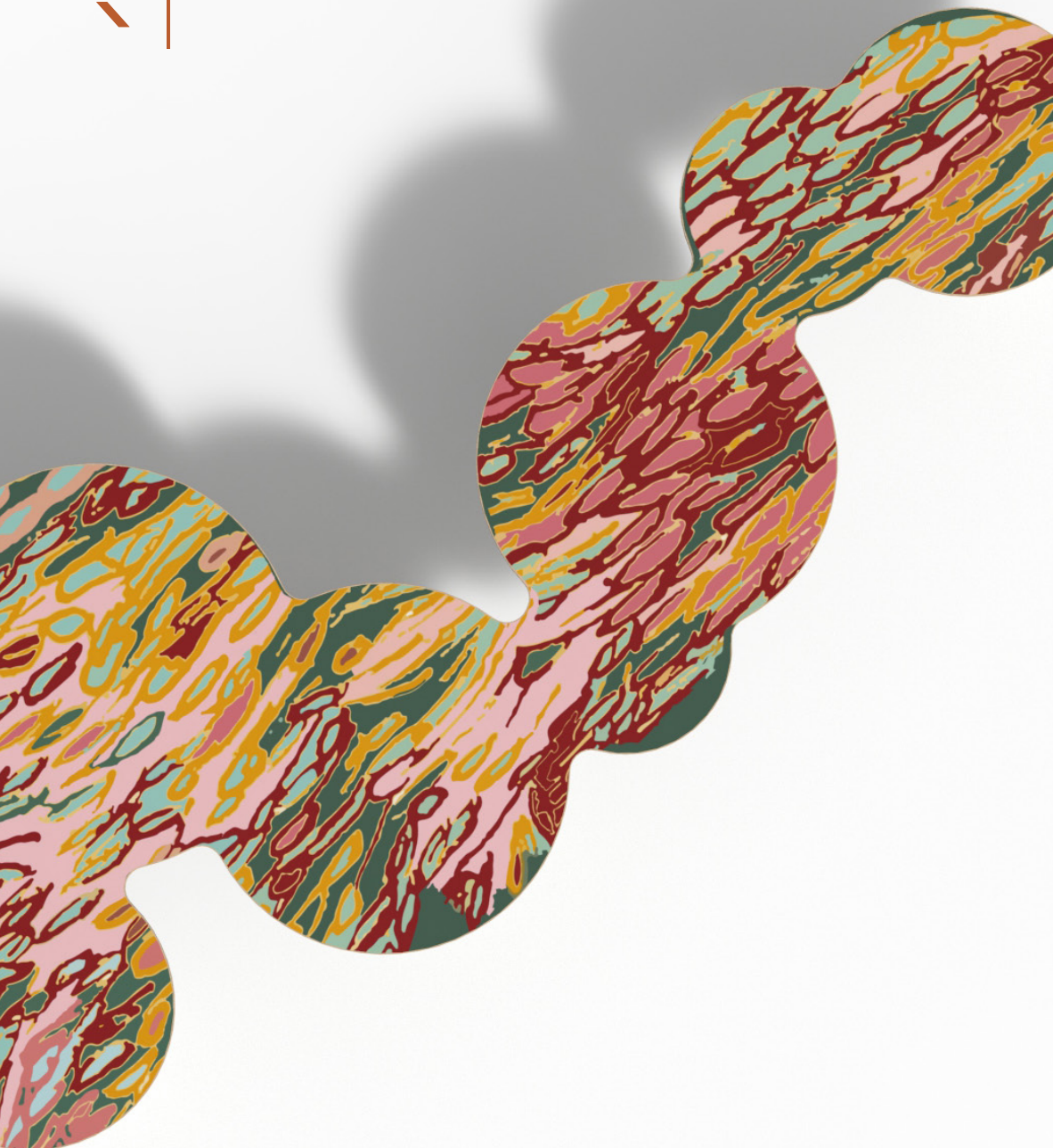
*We are a small Gomeroi women's business who live and work on Country in our Communities, and we are passionate about sharing our Stories and culture. Although we have an established business, brand and products, it is due to our location that there is a lack of opportunities, venues and regional/local arts and culture support. Collaborating with Koskela promotes our culture and creativity by providing us with exciting ongoing opportunities, like working with experienced professionals across their in-store and online platforms. At Koskela we can share our woven Stories in spaces that do not limit our creative design or exhibition, but trusts us to flourish within them.*

Amy Hammond, Co Founder, Managing director  
and Weaver, Yinarr Maramali





# Indigenous Design Facilitation



Project

# Social table project

Location: Gadigal Country, NSW

Koskela teamed up with 6 incredible Sydney-based First Nations artists to design a series of fifteen 'social tables' for a corporate client, each measuring 7m in length and reflecting the form of a cluster of eucalyptus botrytis buds, an important plant for the Eora fisherwomen of the Warrane (Circular Quay) area. Each artist created a culturally significant surface design to be applied to the table, and contributed motifs to the perforated patterning in the tables' steel bases.

This project involved a series of cross-cultural, collaborative workshops and meetings between the 6 artists, the Industrial Design and Impact teams at Koskela and client representatives. We are excited to be installing this project in 2021.

Return to artists:  
\$70,000.00





# Collaborations





by Margaret Dagg, Ernabella Arts

# Batik cushions

It is a true honor for Koskela to play host to Margaret's exclusive collection of Batik cushions, each a one off design. Margaret Dagg is a nationally-renowned Batik artist and is currently the only artist who practices the artform on a regular basis. Through Ernabella Arts, Margaret learned all manner of crafts but was particularly drawn to Batik. Margaret's works are exhibited in the Art Gallery of South Australia, the National Museum of Australia, the National Gallery of Australia and the National Gallery of Victoria.

**Return to community**  
**\$1,725.00**





# Yinarr Maramali Christmas

Koskela collaborated with Gomeroi Yinarr Amy Hammond to create a unique range of Christmas products. Together, we created tote bags, tea towels, banners, gift tags and wrapping paper, which featured a colourful Dhinewan (Emu in the Sky).



**Return to community**  
**\$1,361.48**

(excluding exhibition artworks which are totaled in the exhibition sections).







# Ngumpie Weaving

Ngumpie Weaving is a contemporary First Nations weaving business, proudly owned and run by Barkindtji woman, Tegan Murdock. Koskela began working with Tegan at the start of the pandemic, hosting virtual weaving workshops.

“

*I use weaving as a way to connect back to culture while living away from home and my family.*

**Return to Indigenous  
business \$32,680.60**





# Elcho Galiwin'ku Christmas

Christmas 2019 marked the 10 year anniversary of our social impact partnership with Elcho Island Arts. To celebrate, Koskela hosted a Galiwin'ku Christmas and licensed a range of lincout designs by Ruth Lulwarriwuy to be applied to wrapping paper, tote bags, gift tags, banners and a wall vinyl.



**Return to community**  
**\$2,056.50**







# Culture



**Koskela values Social Impact in our business model and in our culture. In 2020 we endeavored to continue this whilst working from home, both internally and externally. Here are some of our initiatives:**





# Koskela Cultural Competency roll-out

The entire Koskela team undertook a 6-week Cultural Competency course hosted by the University of Sydney. Off the back of this, we proudly sponsored 18 clients to participate in the same course, meeting weekly with our Impact Leader and Wiradjuri woman, Zoe Sims.







# National Reconciliation Week

The 2020 National Reconciliation Week theme was In This Together. To commemorate the week, we facilitated virtual screenings for both staff and the public to watch the film *In my blood it runs*, followed by a Q&A with the filmmaker. 50% of ticket profits went towards supporting the Impact Campaign, which focused on raising the age of juvenile incarceration in Australia and promoting a First Nations-led education system.





# Craft Week

Craft Week is a Sydney based festival running from 9th-18th October 2020. To celebrate, Koskela teamed up with Tegan Murdock (Ngumpie Weaving) to offer two virtual weaving workshops.

Koskela hosted the ticketed sales through Humanitix, which meant that 100% of ticket sale profits were donated to the funding of scholarships for Indigenous Students to help give everyone an equal start.





# At a Glance 2020



Total Products

**3512**



Total Return to Communities:

**\$1,188,343.86**



## Locations

Alice Springs, Peppimentari, Elcho Island, Milingimbi, Ramingining, Yuendumu, Erub Island, Moa Island, Warakurna, Ernabella, Indulka, Amata, The Coorong, Ngukurr, Numbulwar, Northern Rivers, Tamworth, Coonamble, Sydney





Follow your heart.  
Trust your judgment.  
Do it with joy.

**Phone**

(02) 9280 0999

**Location**

1/85 Dunning Ave,  
Rosebery NSW 2018

**Email**

impact@koskela.com.au

**Koskela.com.au**

@koskela\_

