



Koskela: Social Impact Report

2009 –
2019



About Koskela

Koskela believes that great design can be used to effect social change, and is deeply committed to using our design skills to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 their traditional 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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.

Acknowledgments:

Koskela respectfully acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we work; we recognise their living culture and unique role in the life of the region, and pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.



Our Promise:

- Conduct business with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander protocols in place
- Work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned and managed Art Centres and their artist members
- Use written agreements and contracts provided by the Arts Law Centre of Australia
- Uphold the cultural and intellectual property rights of the artist
- Conduct business according to the Indigenous Art Code.*



* 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

Four Pillars Of Sustainability:

The Four Pillars of Sustainability define Koskela's commitment to support Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities & country, their local economies, & diversity of cultures.

1. Environmental Custodianship

- Weaving projects support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-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.



Four Pillars Of Sustainability:

2. Economic Development

- Our projects contribute to economic independence and self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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.*



Statement by Cynthia Burke,
Tjanpi Desert Weavers



Four Pillars Of Sustainability:

3. Social Equity

- Almost 100% of our partner artists and makers are women artists, countering social injustice & 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.* ”

Statement by Milingimbi Arts and Culture
Coordinator Rosita Holmes



Four Pillars Of Sustainability:

4. Cultural Vitality

- We support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander 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.



Statement by Mavis Warrngilna Ganambarr,
Elcho Island Art

A group of nine women are posed in front of a building. One woman stands in the back center, wearing a vibrant, multi-colored striped dress. The other eight women are seated or kneeling on a patterned mat. They are surrounded by various woven baskets and large, colorful art pieces, including circular and rectangular panels with intricate patterns. The building behind them has a sign that reads "Marthakal Business Enterprise Pvt. Ltd. Elcho Islands Arts @ Marthakal Art Hub" and a phone number "08 8970 5081".

YUTA BADAYALA

YUTA BADAYALA

In A New Light

Location: Elcho Island Arts, 12.0247° S,
Galiwinku, Elcho Island 135.5685° E

Product: Hand-Woven Lighting

Number of products: 248

Return to community: \$254, 747*



Artists:



- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Mavis Warrngilna | Rosemary Gutili | Margaret Bambalara | Rosanna Djandi |
| Judy Manany | Alison Burrnyiddi | Roslyn Malngumba | Aggie Warradika |
| Margaret Dhorrpuy | Dorothy Wirritjwirritj | Caroline Gulumindiwuy | Helen Gatjikin |
| Verity Burarrwanga | Megan Balatj | Julienne Gitjpulu | Linda Marathuwarra |
| Sharon Djalambarr | Priscilla Baladurr | Nathasha Pozzana | Julie Djulibing |
| Ruth Lulwarriwuy | Dorothy Wirritjwirritj | Mary Guyula | Daisy Gunygulu |
| Beth Djarrupi | Nancy Mutilnga | Kerry Malaray | Susan Yirrawurr |
| Wunungmurra | Erica Rawurruwuy | Lena Walunydjunalil | Bronwyn Dhumudhunu |
| Megan Yunupingu | Aggie Warradika | Rosemary Gundjarropuy | Nancy Gudaltj |
| Dorothy Yangathu | Margaret | Judy Ganaparra | Alison Burrnyiddi |
| Rosemary Ganambarr | Gudumurrkuwuy | Nancy Gudaltj | |

* \$40,000 of this was a grant received by the Australia Council.

YUTA BADAYALA

In A New Light

Yuṭa Baḍayala is where it all started. A collaboration between Yolngu weavers from Elcho Island Arts in Arnhem Land 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 Yolngu 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 the stories and laughter of their makers.* ”

– Sasha Titchkosky, Koskela

Yuṭa Baḍayala has been exhibited in Japan, the Powerhouse Museum of Australia, The National Gallery of Victoria and Jam Factory and are featured in many office environments, including Qantas HQ and private residences.





TILI WIRU

Tili Wiru

Beautiful Light



Artist: Tjanpi Desert Weavers 23.7007° S,
133.8711° E

Product: Hand-Woven Lighting

Number of products: 62

Return to communities: \$36, 271



Artists:



- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Nancy Nanana Jackson | Carlene Thompson | Denise Jackson |
| Naomi Kantjuri | Chriselda Farmer | Julie Anderson |
| Anne Dixon | Nancy Jackson Nanana | Jasmine Mitchell Lewis |
| Margaret Heffernan | Polly Jackson Butler | Lisa |
| Robinson | Pawuya | Corinna Shepherd |
| Margret Smith | Delilah Shepherd | Myra Malbunka |
| Margret Dagg | Roberta | Maureen Baker |
| Eunice Yunurupa Porter | Eunice Porter Yunurupa | Ruth Bates |
| Maringka Burton | Tjunkaya Tapaya | Wipana Muwitja Jimmy |
| Anawari Mitchell Inpiti | Roshanna Elizabeth | Cynthia Burke |
| Niningka Lewis | Yinga Williamson | Ulawanti Ungkutjuru Ken |

Tili Wiru

Beautiful Light

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.

“ *What better kind of work is there?... It is strong and important work. We are happy doing it.* ”





YUTTA DUGITJ

YUTTA DUGITJ

To Grow



Artist	Milingimbi Arts and Culture, Milingimbi	12.0939° S, 134.8973° E
Product:	Hand-Woven Lighting	
Number of products:	78	
Return to community:	\$127, 623	



Artists:



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

YUTU DUGITJ

To Grow

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).

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





GURRWILINYWIRRIY MUNDAN

GURRWILINYWIRRIY MUNDAN

Bush String



Artist	Bula’Bula Arts, Ramingining	19.4914° S, 132.5510° E
Product:	Hand-Woven Lighting	
Number of products:	19	
Return to community:	\$13, 980	



Artists:



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

Gurrwilinywirriy Mundan

Bush String

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.





KAPU MINARAL

KAPU MINARAL

Beautiful Colours



Artist: Moa Arts (Ngalmun Lagau Minaral Arts), Mua Island 23.7007° S, 133.8711° E

Product: Hand-Woven Lighting

Number of products: 10

Return to community: \$8,055



Artists: Josie Nawia Paula Savage Maria Ware Fiona Elisala



KAPU MINARAL

Beautiful Colours

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.

— Paula Savage, Moa Arts

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

— Josie Nawia, Moa Arts





BLUE & WHITE PROJECT

Yarrenyty Arltere Artists

Blue & White Project



Location	Alice Springs, Northern Territory	23.6980° S, 133.8807° E
Product:	Cushions	
Number of products:	16	
Return to communities	\$880	



Artists:



- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Margaret Rarru | Kathy Ngulurru |
| Joyce Naliyabu | Margaret Dhalwangu |
| Helen Ganalmirriwuy | Balay |
| Helen Minminydjarrk | Abigail Mundjala |
| Ruth Nalmakarra | Sabrina Roy |
| Mandy Batjula | Frances Rrikili |
| Gaykamangu | Rosetta Wayatja |
| Sandra Manydjurrpuy | Mandjikay |
| Zelda Wurgiur | Jennifer Gigamanawa |
| Elizabeth Rukarriwuy | Brown |
| Rhonda Gapirrawuy | Debbie Wuduwawuy |

Yarrenyty Arltere Artists

Blue & White Project

Koskela collaborated with the Yarrenyty Arltere Artists in 2017, resulting in a limited edition release of sixteen unique cushions.

The cushions have culminated from the 'Blue and White project', a new extension of the artists' practice which saw a departure from their renowned soft sculpture work. Artists experimented with cyanotype printing - an old photographic technique. This technique developed a new colour - beautiful blues, created by the exposure of the sun. The images depicted in each cushion tell stories about the artists lives, culture and country. Situated in Alice Springs, the town camp of Yarrenyty Arltere has been supporting Arrente and Luritja artists since 2000.

“ *The art makes us think of our culture in another way and what we want people to know. It's good for everyone to have a place like this. It helps us be part of both worlds.* ”

— Dulcie Sharpe, Yarrenyty Arltere Artists



Other projects: Licensing fees & royalties

DURRMU ARTS:

Regina Wilson Durrmu textile designs
\$10,070

TANGENTYERE ARTISTS:

Christmas 2018 gift wrap, cards and posters
\$1587

ERUB ARTS:

Christmas 2017 gift wrap
\$350

WARLUKURLANGKU ARTISTS:

Christmas 2016 gift wrap
\$300

ARTISTS OF AMPILATWATJA:

Steel screen design
\$6,000

Total:

\$18,307

Other projects:

Art Sales \$118,116

Art Centre Product Sales \$13,980

Total:

● \$136,391



At A Glance: 2009 — To Date

Locations:

Alice Springs, Peppimenarti, Elcho Island, Milingimbi, Ramingining, Yuendumu, Erub Island, Moa Island, Warakurna, Ernabella, Indulkana,

Languages:

Anangu, Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara Luritja, Ngaanyatjarra, Warlpiri, Arrernte, Yolngu Matha, (Djambarrpuynu, Dhuwala, Dhay'yi Galpa, Golpa, Golumala, Gumatj, Liya'gawumirr, Wangurri, Warramiri and Gupauyngu), Brokan, Kala Lagaw Ya, Meriam Mer, Ngan'gikurunggurr, Marathiel

Total products: 480

Total return to communities: \$596, 254

