

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

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

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.

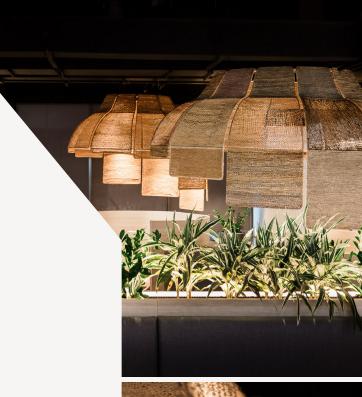
Statement by Helen Ganalmirriwuy, Susan Balbunga, Helen Milminydjarrk, Zelda Wuigir, Elizabeth Rukarriwuy and Abigail Mundjala, Milingimbi Arts and Culture.

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 suport financial literacy
- 1 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.

<u>Statement</u> by Cynthia Burke, Tjanpi Desert Weavers





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.

<u>Statement</u> by Milingimbi Arts and Culture Coordinator Rosita Holmes

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 Aborignal & 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.

<u>Statement</u> by Mavis Warrngilna Ganambarr, Elcho Island Art







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
Judy Manany
Margaret Dhorrpuy
Verity Burarrwanga
Sharon Djalambarr
Ruth Lulwarriwuy
Beth Djarrupi
Wunungmurra
Megan Yunupingu
Dorothy Yangathu
Rosemary Ganambarr

Rosemary Gutili
Alison Burrnyiddi
Dorothy Wirritjwirritj
Megan Balatj
Priscilla Baladurr
Dorothy Wirritjwirritj
Nancy Mutilnga
Erica Rawurruwuy
Aggie Warradika
Margaret
Gudumurrkuwuy

Margaret Bambalara
Roslyn Malngumba
Caroline Gulumindiwuy
Julienne Gitjpulu
Nathasha Pozzana
Mary Guyula
Kerry Malaray
Lena Walunydjunalil
Rosemary Gundjarropuy
Judy Ganaparra
Nancy Gudaltj

Rosanna Djandi
Aggie Warradika
Helen Gatjikin
Linda Marathuwarra
Julie Djulibing
Daisy Gunygulu
Susan Yirrawurr
Bronwyn Dhumudhunu
Nancy Gudaltj
Alison Burrnyiddi

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

YUTA BADAYALA

In A New Light

Yuta Badayala 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
- nd spirit and are filled with the stories and laughter of their makers.

- Sasha Titchkosky, Koskela

Yuta Badayala 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

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

Naomi Kantjuri

Anne Dixon

Margaret Heffernan

Robinson

Margret Smith

Margret Dagg

Eunice Yunurupa Porter

Maringka 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

Jasmine Mitchell Lewis

Lisa

Corinna Shepherd

Myra Malbunka

Maureen Baker

Ruth Bates

Wipana Muwitja Jimmy

Cynthia Burke

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.

66 What better kind of work is there?... It is strong

99 and important work. We are happy doing it.

<u>Statement</u> by Paniny Mick



YUTTA DUGITJ

To Grow



Artist Milingimbi Arts and 12.0939° S,

Culture, Milingimbi 134.8973° E

Product: Hand-Woven Lighting

Number of products: 78

Return to community: \$127, 623



Artists:



Margaret Rarru
Joyce Naliyabu
Helen Ganalmirriwuy
Helen Minminydjarrk
Ruth Nalmakarra
Mandy Batjula
Gaykamangu
Sandra Manydjurrpuy
Zelda Wurgiur
Elizabeth Rukarriwuy
Rhonda Gapirrawuy

Kathy Ngulurru Margaret Dhalwangu Balayu Abigail Mundjala Sabrina Roy

Frances Rrikili

Rosetta Wayatja Mandjikay

Jennifer Gigamanawa

Brown

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).

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







GURRWILINYWIRRIY MUNDAN

Bush String



Artist Bula'Bula Arts, 19.4914° S,

Ramingining 132.5510° E

Product: Hand-Woven Lighting

Number of products: 19

Return to community: \$13, 980





Lena Yangamiyawuy

Lynette Birriran

Evonne Munuyngu

Mugunu

Mary Dhapalany

Margaret Djarrbalabal

Malibirr

Julie Djulibing Malibirr

Daphne Banyawarra

Banyuwarr



Gurrwilinywirriy Mundan

Bush String

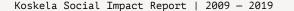
Koskela started collaborating with Bula'Bula Arts in 2018. The artists of Bula'Bula use traditional Bush string made from the fibres between the bark and the trunk of the kurrajong tree.

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 makingobjects which are not traditional yolngu objects and the strength of their identity as late career Yolngu Artists is distilled in these lampshades.









KAPU MINARAL

Beautiful Colours



Artist Moa Arts (Ngalmun Lagau 23.7007° S,

Minaral Arts), Mua Island 133.8711° E

Product: Hand-Woven Lighting

Number of products: 10

Return to community: \$8,055



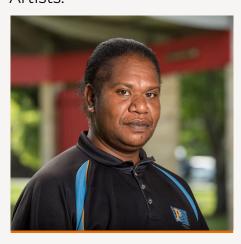
Artists:

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
- **99** of Moa Island.
 - Josie Nawia, Moa Arts





Yarrenyty Arltere Artists

Blue & White Project



Location Alice Springs, 23.6980° S,

Northern Territor

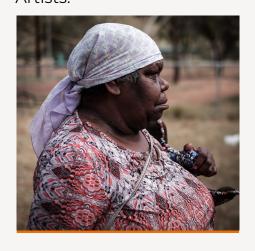
Product: Cushions

Number of products: 16

Return to communities \$880



Artists:



Margaret Rarru
Joyce Naliyabu
Helen Ganalmirriwuy
Helen Minminydjarrk
Ruth Nalmakarra
Mandy Batjula
Gaykamangu
Sandra Manydjurrpuy
Zelda Wurgiur
Elizabeth Rukarriwuy

Rhonda Gapirrawuy

Margaret Dhalwangu Balayu Abigail Mundjala Sabrina Roy Frances Rrikili Rosetta Wayatja

133.8807° E

Rosetta Wayatja Mandjikay

Kathy Ngulurru

Jennifer Gigamanawa

Brown

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.

- 66 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, (Djambarrpuyngu, 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

