SAHMRI's RAP Artwork



Karrawirra Pari by Allan Sumner

Kaurna Miyurna Wardli Kaurna peoples shelter Wardliparingga Little River Place Partner Institutes Tarnda Tracks Kangaroo Tracks Kardi Tracks Emu Tracks Karrawirra Pari River Torrens Aboriginal Communities

ARTWORK TITLE: Karrawirra Pari

The development of this Artwork reflects SAHMRI's commitment to Reconciliation and the building of strong partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, by providing equitable opportunities across the Institute.

The artwork, known as "Karrawirra Pari" meaning "redgum forest river". It is also the name given to the river by the Kaurna People. The artwork also features "Wardliparingga". It is a Kaurna term meaning "house river place", and is also the name for the Milky Way reflected in the River Torrens, alongside of which SAHMRI is located

The artwork is a reflection of the vibrant landscape along the River Torrens, a time when the Kaurna People lived in their natural state across the Adelaide plains. Over the years Karrawirra Pari has taken many forms but it is still a special place for the Kaurna People.

Today as one family we stand together on Kaurna Land, we acknowledge the traditional owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community.

ARTIST: Allan Sumner

Born in 1975, Allan Sumner is a descendant of the Ngarrindjeri people who come from the lower Murray and the lakes of the Murray River along the Coorong of South Australia. He is also descendant of the Kaurna people from Adelaide, the plains region and the Yankunytjatjara people from Central Australia.

Allan takes a keen interest in his culture, particularly learning from his elders about the stories that have been passed down from generation to generation. Retracing ancient art forms, Allan is passionate about learning cultural stories and representing those stories through his contemporary pieces.

Allan mostly paints with acrylic applied onto canvas and also makes boomerangs, bark shields, didgeridoos, emu eggs and other cultural artefacts.

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