

2019

The State of
Victoria's Children

FEATURED ARTIST DIRECTORY

TORCH PROJECT ARTISTS

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Alex E

Alex E is a Yorta Yorta and Wemba Wemba man. If you would like to learn more about the artist or would like to purchase their artwork, you can do so by contacting The Torch on **03 9042 1236** or by going to **thetorch.org.au**



Crocodile Dreaming (2019)

Acrylic on canvas –

The crocodile is an animal I feel I have a good connection to.

Corey

Corey is a Gunaikurnai man. If you would like to learn more about the artist or would like to purchase their artwork, you can do so by contacting The Torch on **03 9042 1236** or by going to **thetorch.org.au**



Platypus on Country (2020)

Acrylic on canvas –

This painting is about a pair of platypuses in the Mitchell River in Gippsland.

Izzick Brooks

Izzick Brooks is a Gunaikurnai man. If you would like to learn more about the artist or would like to purchase their artwork, you can do so by contacting The Torch on **03 9042 1236** or by going to **thetorch.org.au**



Grandparents in the Dreamtime (2019)

Acrylic on canvas –
My grandparents watching over their grandson,
my son, and guiding through life.



Family (2019)

Acrylic on canvas –
This painting represents my siblings and me.

Dyllon

Dyllon is a Barkindji man. If you would like to learn more about the artist or would like to purchase their artwork, you can do so by contacting The Torch on **03 9042 1236** or by going to **thetorch.org.au**



Always Was, Always Will Be (2020)

Acrylic on canvas – This represents all of the different tribes coming together with different mobs. Their artwork designs are on the snakes' bodies. The white snake represents a blending of cultures as many of us are made up of mixed races.

Lachlan

Lachlan is a Noongar and Yamatji man. If you would like to learn more about the artist or would like to purchase their artwork, you can do so by contacting The Torch on **03 9042 1236** or by going to **thetorch.org.au**



Family Together Forever (2020)

Acrylic on canvas –

This is our family being together.

Always together, together forever.

Cheyenne

Cheyenne is a 17 year old Yorta Yorta young woman who lives in Reservoir with her family. Cheyenne loves painting and it makes her feel relaxed. Her Dad, Uncle and Aunties also paint. She feels proud and happy that she is also good at art. Cheyenne's artwork is available for purchase and can be contacted via VACCA - Art Mentoring Program, Project Officer Sarah Diplock at sarahd@vacca.org



Turtle



Untitled



Untitled

Gurrenah

Gurrenah is Bundjaluh/Gumbainggir on his father's side. He is 17 and taught himself art. He says it is a 'family thing'. For Gurrenah art is culture, a way of life and it's fun! Art is how Gurrenah expresses himself. "I like doing art because it's fun. I have done a collaboration with my dad – the snake on the shield. It felt good doing that because we worked together." Gurrenah's artwork is available for purchase and can be contacted via VACCA - Art Mentoring Program, Project Officer Sarah Diplock at sarahd@vacca.org



Untitled



What We See



Untitled

Jessica Rose

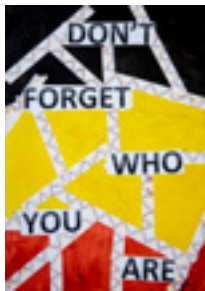
Jessica Rose is 17 years old. She is a Yaggra young woman who lives in Epping with her mum, dad, cousin and Uncle. Her nan taught her how to do art and she is so thankful to her nan because she uses art to calm her down and to relax. Jessica-Rose's artwork is available for purchase and can be contacted via VACCA - Art Mentoring Program, Project Officer - Sarah Diplock at sarahd@vacca.org



Boomerang



Possum



Don't Forget Who You Are



Sea and Land



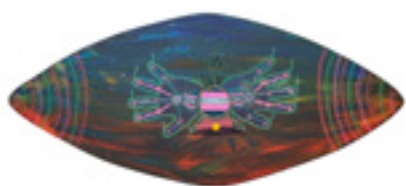
My Family



The Path I Take

Sab

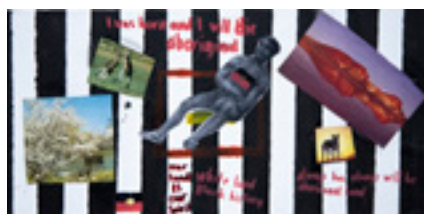
Sab lives in Mill Park with her mum, dad, four brothers, one dog and five cats. She is a proud trans-woman. Sab believes her art tells its own story and says that 'art is everything to me!' and her particular style of artwork uses raised paints so that people who are vision impaired can still experience, enjoy and understand the artwork. Sab's piece, "Trans Me" tells the story of how she found out she was a trans-girl!". Sab's artwork is available for purchase and can be contacted via VACCA - Art Mentoring Program Project Officer, - Sarah Diplock at sarahd@vacca.org



Trans Me



Untitled



Blak Land



Spirit Aboriginal



Family Means Everything To Me



My Life



Aboriginal Land

Shyane

Shyane is 16 and from the Yorta Yorta Nation and is studying to be a child care worker. Shyane likes including words in her art especially words to do with her culture and feels because of this her paintings tell their own story. "I see art as part of my culture and identity." Shyane's artwork is available for purchase and can be contacted via VACCA - Art Mentoring Program, Project Officer - Sarah Diplock at sarahd@vacca.org



Black and Deadly



I Am Proud To Be Aboriginal

Emily Bell

Emily Bell is an 18-year-old student with ancestral connects to Arrernte people of the Central Desert. She was born and raised on the beautiful Bunurong/ Boon Wurrung country. Emily has participated in the Richmond Football Club's Korin Gamadji Institute (KGI) Richmond Emerging Aboriginal Leaders (REAL) program, Swinburne University's Marngo Designing Futures program, various Aboriginal youth forums as well as designing artwork for a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) for Tandem Corp. Emily's artwork is available for purchase. Emily can be contacted via email on aboriginalgirlart@gmail.com or via her Instagram account https://instagram.com/aboriginalgirl_art/



My Home by the sea

The gum leaves a symbol of welcome for the local traditional owner group, The Boon Wurrung People on whose land I have been fortunate enough to be born and raised on. The gum leaf is a mark of respect and acknowledgment of their elders who show me the way. The colours represent, the blues of the waters and sky, the vivid oranges and yellows of the sands, and the green of the beautiful bush that surrounds us. The dots acknowledge my ancestors and white lines showing our journey across this country.



The Finke River

Is a painting of where my ancestors were born. My mother's great grandma was born on the banks of the Finke river. Although I've never been to country, I've looked at the way the river is shaped over the country and I dream of going and seeing the land on which my ancestors were born. With this painting I pay tribute to my home country. The blue dots showing the movement of the river, with people, meeting places, seeds that surround the river, the different colour sections represent all the different colours of country you'll find across Australia.



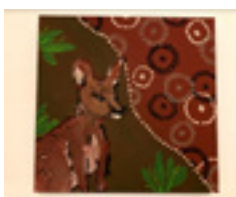
By The Water (2021)

Acrylic on canvas, framed in locally sustainably sourced raw oak - The lines and colours that flow across the canvas represent the water which bring life. Under the stars our people and animals to live harmoniously together.



Woman and child (2021)

Framed, Acrylic on canvas - Commissioned artwork that tells the story of a woman and child who live by the water, but journeyed from Queensland, the vibrant purple flowers are the state flower of Queensland, the Cooktown Orchid.

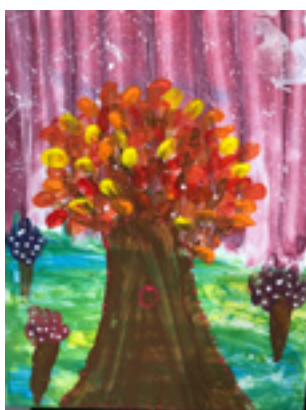


Kangaroo Country (2021)

Acrylic on canvas - Signifying strength, the kangaroo looks out onto the country, where we connect and heal ourselves and our loved ones.

Jaala Marks-Lovett

Jaala is currently in year 10 and has come across a few aspirations in life such as a community engagement officer or teacher. But is currently wanting to be a KESO (Koorie education support officer) when she gets older. She hasn't been confident in her art until she made this piece. She is also exploring digital art which she enjoys creating. If you are interested in Jaala's artwork, she can be contacted via **0427 257 272**.



Truly Magical (2020)

The artwork depicts an enchanted forest. In the right corner you can see the moon made by the palm of her hand. The main tree resembles autumn with the colour of the leaves and mini trees surround it.

Kelanee Lovett

Kelanee is currently in year 6 and is the youngest of 4 sisters. She is the biggest character you could ever meet and has a love of art. As growing up she would see her big sisters painting so she loves painting with her sisters to help grow her skills and story telling. If you are interested in Kelanee's artwork, she can be contacted via **0427 257 272**.



The Hunt Must Go On (2020)

In the painting you can see the men of the tribe hunting for food. They are chasing an emu and kangaroo but have to be quick. As the sun is setting and it will get dark. Others are waiting at camp for the food they catch.

KOOrie Kids After School (KOOKAS)

The KOOKAS After School Program is split between a junior and senior group through out the week. The programs aims to engage the kids to connect to culture and community. Their painting was a group effort on what Aboriginal culture meant to them. If you are interested in this piece or would like to learn more about the KOOKAS After School Program, including how you can support this program, please contact **5381 6333** or email reception@goolumgoolum.org.au



Connection To Country (2020)

The mountains represent the Gariwerd (Grampians) and the water represents the Wimmera River. Important parts of the land we live around and both have a Dreamtime story around the Mekong of them. The animals represent the kids Nyupun animals that were given to them by local elders. You can also see a man in a cave with his fire, clap sticks, didgeridoo, spear and cave art.

Tanisha Lovett

Tanisha Lovett is a proud Gunditjmara and Wotjobaluk woman. Tanisha is an artist and Aboriginal Youth Leader, who in 2019 was awarded the 'Regional Development Victoria Leadership and Innovation Award'. She is a well known up-and-coming leader in her community. Tanisha is currently working with Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Cooperative as the Cultural Worker in which she coordinates Celebrating Sistas which is an Indigenous women's group, Koorie Kids After School (KOOKAS) program and the Art program. Creates flyers and newsletters. Helps deliver community events and camps. She is a FedUni Alumni and has finished courses in digital media and IT. If you would like to know more about Tanisha or would like to purchase some of her amazing artwork, you can contact her on **0427 257 272** and **tanishalovett98@hotmail.com** or check out her Facebook page 'Merindah Koori Art' <https://www.facebook.com/MerindahKooriart/>



Breaking Barriers (2017)

We all know that before a baby turtle can get off the beach in to the ocean there are many barriers that stop them to reaching their desired destination. This is how I represent what it was like for my sisters and I growing up. The three turtles represent my three younger sisters, all different sizes and different colours. I didn't paint myself in next to them as it was my time to move out of home. Even though I knew I would be swimming not too far away still watching them learn, grow and break barriers like I had to.



Rainbow Serpent Dreaming (2017)

I chose to paint the rainbow serpent as when I was growing up I had cataracts in both of my eyes. After both of my operations to remove them. Everything wasn't clouded and dull. It changed my life, I remember reading the Dreamtime story when I was younger. I had and still have a great appreciation for all of the colours of the rainbow.

State of Victoria's Children report series

The State of Victoria's Children annual report series is produced by the Performance and Evaluation Division within Department of Education and Training on behalf of the Children's Services Coordination Board. The Board comprises the Chief Commissioner for Police and the secretaries of the departments of Premier and Cabinet, Treasury and Finance, Education and Training, Health and Human Services, and Justice and Community Safety.

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<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/research/Pages/reportdatachildren.aspx>