

On display at Mundaring Arts Centre from 9 April – 19 June, the 2022 Shire of Mundaring Open Art Acquisition Exhibition showcases works by 18 artists that reflect on their relationship with the natural world. Highlights from the Shire of Mundaring Art Collection, selected for their iconic representation of the land, are also featured.

Established in 1985, the Shire of Mundaring Art Collection celebrates a wealth of Western Australian artists with almost 200 works. This year's art acquisition exhibition, *Country Connections*, was open to artists with a continuing connection to the Shire of Mundaring, inviting them to submit works that explore themes of the natural environment. The Shire of Mundaring is recognised for its forest reserves and waterways, which provide sanctuary to a variety of flora and fauna. Those who maintain a connection with the region have an enduring enthusiasm for its conservation and cultivation.



Tjyllyungoo Lance Chadd, *Returning*, acrylic on canvas, 92.5 x 56cm.

The artists whose work was selected for *Country Connections* are Alastair Taylor, Antony Muia, Bernard Kerr, Craig McKeough, Emily Rose, Jane Button, Jeni McColl, Jeremy Passmore, Jina Lee, Leanne Bray, Madeleine Clear, Melissa De Winter, Narayani Palmer, SpatialCo (Peter Hill and Leonie Matthews), Tjyllyungoo Lance Chadd, Una Bell, and Vanessa Curley.

Previously acquired works from the Shire of Mundaring will be exhibited alongside these new works, sharing the artists' perceptions of identity and connection to the land. These works include Olga Cironis' *Take all that belongs to you and run*, Alex Boddington's *Serving Spoons*, Sarah Elson's *Lament of the Labellum- Anaphora 7*, and Bethamy Linton's *Western Whip Bird*.

Country Connections is co-curated by Nyoongar artist Sharyn Egan and City of Fremantle Art Collection Curator André Lipscombe. Egan is a curator, painter, weaver, and sculptor. She completed a Diploma of Fine Arts at the Claremont School of Art in 1998 and continued her education at Curtin University, where she received an Associate Degree in Contemporary Aboriginal Art in 2000 and a Bachelor of Arts in 2001. Egan has been awarded public art commissions at Optus Stadium, Elizabeth Quay, Yagan Square, and Scarborough Beach, and is a frequent exhibitor at Sculpture by the Sea in both Bondi and Cottesloe.

Lipscombe has a longstanding career in the visual arts sector as an artist, writer, educator and curator. He has exhibited regularly since receiving his Bachelor of Arts from Curtin University in 1983 and has conducted studio practices in Perth, Esperance, and Melbourne. Lipscombe is primarily associated with Art Collective WA and is represented in numerous private and public collections, including the City of Swan, Curtin University, Edith Cowan University, Shire of Esperance, St. John of God, and the University of Western Australia.

The diversity of works featured in *Country Connections* captures the distinctive natural environment that the Shire of Mundaring and its surrounding region has become known for. See *Country Connections* on display at Mundaring Arts Centre from 9 April – 9 June.

For media enquiries please contact Shannon Pearce, Communications Officer
comms@mundaringartscentre.com.au | 0421 369 688

Mundaring Arts Centre | Tuesday – Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday & Sunday 11am-3pm
7190 Great Eastern Hwy, Mundaring WA 6073 | 08 9295 3991 | mundaringartscentre.com.au