

Many Moods

*'Many Moods'* is an exploration of Minjerribah/North Stradbroke Island through the lived experiences of five local artists: Julie Sisco, Anaheke Metua, Delvene Cockatoo-Collins, Amber Vicum and Paula Boo. The collective of artists show, through their lenses, the moods of the Island through photography, woven sculptures, woven mats and gathered seeds.

These artists came together to form the Island Arts Collective (IAC) in late June when they were presented with an opportunity to take on a retail space as a pop-up shop. For over 4 months, the IAC provided island based art and workshops to local and tourist markets and were warmly received by all who entered the space. During this time, the artists had the opportunity of working together and had many discussions about future projects as a collective. *'Many Moods'* is a continuation of the journey of the Island Arts Collective.

Julie Sisco challenges the idea that Minjerribah/North Stradbroke Island is only turquoise waters and white sandy beaches through her selection of images that evoke feelings of the unknown and a gentleness through the subtle hues of greys, powder blues and sage.

Anaheke Metua's works in *'Many Moods'* speak to the observations and daily rhythms of the night sky, seasonal sand migrations and the fruiting and flowering patterns of the Bangalow Palm on Minjerribah/North Stradbroke Island.

Recurring themes across Delvene Cockatoo-Collins work is the relationship to her great-great grandmother, through a body of work, titled Six Generations, traditional mat making techniques, and the use of clays and pigments found across Quadamooka, including the islands and mainland around Moreton Bay. Delvene brings these recurring themes to *'Many Moods'* in the form of a large woven Yungair mat, a set of ceramic tiles with local pigments and a 'Woven to Our Ancestors' wall sculpture.

Amber Vicum's work is continually evolving on her journey as an artist and a mother and speaks of her love of the Island. Amber contributes large seed creations to *'Many Moods'* that include the gathered seeds that travel with the seas to the shores of Minjerribah/North Stradbroke Island.

Paula Boo's work speaks of her inspiration from, her deep appreciation for, and her love of Minjerribah/North Stradbroke Island and its natural beauty. Her contribution to *'Many Moods'* is a reflection of Paula's 27 year connection to Minjerribah/North Stradbroke Island, her ancestors and her love of the natural environment.

Minjerribah is more than what is seen in the magazines, the visitor guides and weekend TV shows. It is gentle, it is wild, it is welcoming, it is connectedness, it is family. It is Quadamooka Country.



# Julie Sisco

Julie Sisco has lived on Straddie for almost 20 years during which time her desire to document the world around her led her to completing a diploma of photography in 2010.

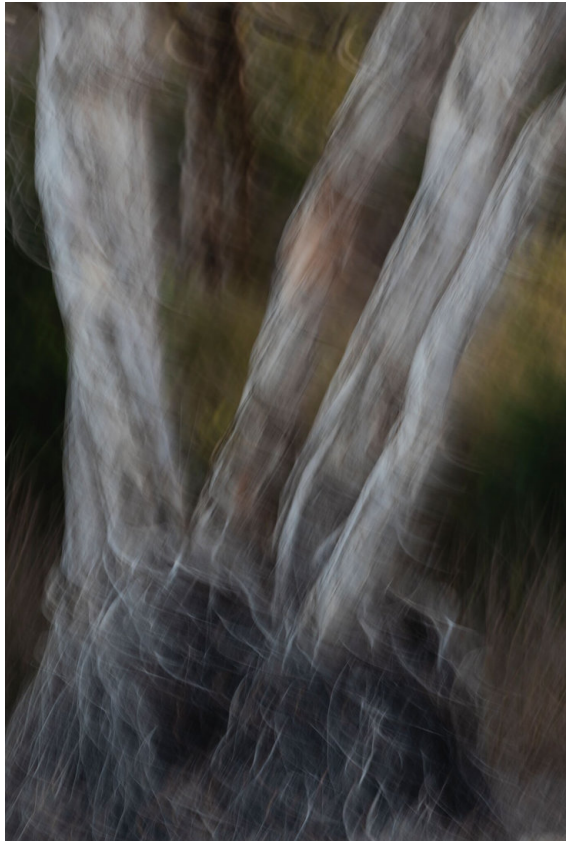
Through sharing the fleeting moments, creating images and communicating via an unspoken visual language, Julie seeks to reconnect the viewer with nature.

Using emotive and visually appealing images to invoke a sense of peace, as if they were amongst the scene themselves, Julie encourages questioning the narrative of the moment, the place and its meaning.

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## **'Paperbarks at Brown Lake' – Story**

This image of paperbarks at Brown Lake represents change, fragility and steadfastness. Several years ago, these trees were standing in a metre or so of water, now they are high above the water line. The image hints at forces of ever-changing motion, but the trees remain steadfast, standing strong and determined, but for how long can they hold on?



*Image of Julie by Julie Sisco  
Image of Paperbarks at Brown Lake  
by Julie Sisco*



# Anaheke Metua

Anaheke Metua is Ngai Te Rangi woman, born and bred in Aotearoa, NZ, relocating to Australia in the late 1980's and currently residing on Minjerribah/North Stradbroke Island.

For the past 20 years Anaheke has dedicated herself to learning the foundations of basketry and arts facilitation, expressing her own unique voice as a contemporary fibre artist and weaver inspired by the stories of her Polynesian ancestors and restoration of her Maoritanga (Indigenous wisdom).

As an exhibiting artist, she demonstrates skill in the construction and composition of interlocking a wide variety of natural fibres in an alternating pattern to create 2D & 3D woven sculpture and contemporary fibre art.

Her works in 'Many Moods' speak to the observations and daily rhythms of the night's sky, seasonal sand migrations and the fruiting and flowering patterns of the native Bangalow Palm on Minjerribah/North Stradbroke Island.

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## 'Matariki' – Story

This WOVEN ART piece is inspired by the constellation known to (Maori) as Matariki/Pleiades and marks the beginning of a new year in the Maori stellar/lunar calendar. It is also the name given to the season of its arrival when seen on the horizon between late May/June or July changing slightly each year.

It was in this season that Maori celebrates and prepared the ground for the coming year and made a ritual offering of food from the land to the many Gods including Rongo (the God of cultivated foods). It was a good time to instruct young people in the lore of the land and forest in addition certain birds and fish were especially easy to harvest at that time.

Each star has its own name and represents both male and female spirit/energy. This star system is also a very important navigational marker when travelling the great expanse of Te Moana Nui O Kiwa/The Pacific Ocean.

Tens of thousands of years of irreplaceable traditional knowledge is being lost daily across the planet. In Anaheke's work, she aims to retain her cultural identity through telling the stories of her people through contemporary Fibre Art.



*Image of Anaheke by Linda Brennan  
Image of Matariki by Nikki Michail*



# Delvene Cockatoo-Collins

Delvene Cockatoo-Collins is a Quandamooka woman who lives and works on Minjerribah/North Stradbroke Island. Her studio-based practice includes ceramics, woven sculptures and handprinted homewares. Through these mediums, she expresses the stories of her family's lived experiences on Minjerribah, the natural environment, and her responses to representations of images and texts of Quandamooka.

She has an inherently resourceful approach to her art making, whereby she spends time with her family across Minjerribah and the islands and mainland of Quandamooka collecting materials, including clays, pigments and found objects that become an important element in her work. Delvene also draws inspiration from the moments that are shared with her family, particularly her mother and the written words of her Grandmother. She translates these narratives through her own contemporary interpretations to ensure their continuation.

Attending two Gold Coast Indigenous Artist Camps on the southern end of Stradbroke Island with mentors Fiona Foley (2015) and Brian Robinson (2016), Delvene's practice evolved to focus on ceramics and prints, which are influenced by her family. A body of work, titled 'Six Generations' was a response to a studio photo of Delvene's grandmother's grandmother taken in 1890's and shown during one of the evening presentations at the Gold Coast Indigenous Artist Camp 2015. The work on paper, ceramics and an installation was exhibited in 'My Story' at the Art Centre Gold Coast. 'Six Generations' was later acquired by the Queensland Museum.

'*Many Moods*' speaks of Delvene and her family's ongoing connection to Minjerribah/North Stradbroke Island and contributes to the recurring themes in her work of woven mats, ancestral woven sculptures and the use of local clays and pigments.

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## 'Yungair Mat' – Story

In '*Many Moods*' (2019), Delvene has constructed a large woven Yungair Mat supported through Tawalpin/Cotton tree fibres and branches. The use of the freshwater reed Yungair demonstrates the transformation of something delicate to a strong and functional mat form when woven together. Her use of the lace like inner fibres become strong when rolled/twisted together to make twine/rope and paired together with the branches of the Tawalpin.



*Image of Delvene by Julie Sisco*  
*Image of Yungair Mat by Paul Bishop*



# Amber Vicum

Amber grew up in North East Victoria on the Ovens River. She has always had a strong connection to nature and felt at home in the bush. She first arrived on Minjerribah/North Stradbroke Island in 2000 whilst on a trip travelling around Australia in her van. She came for a week and ended up staying on and calling the Island her home.

She has been creative throughout her whole life and has always enjoyed creating. She began doing markets with her jewellery in France and continued her evolution as an artist in Australia developing her passion and unique designs using a variety of seeds and gemstones.

Some seeds grow on Straddie and others come with the ocean's currents and are washed up onto the beach. Others are gifted to her from loving friends.

"I feel like I am just showcasing nature's beauty. Jewels of the forest, become jewels of the sea, dancing down the currents, washing up to me." Amber Vicum

Amber's inspiration for *'Many Moods'* has come from her connections with nature, friends, family and Minjerribah/North Stradbroke Island.

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## **'Blood Runs Deep' – Story**

Family lines run deep and long. Our blood connects us. The seeds represent relatives, ancestors, cells and souls from this lifetime and forever, all connected in the circle of life.



*Image of Amber by Julie Sisco*

*Image of Blood Runs Deep by Julie Sisco*



# Paula Boo

Paula Boo first arrived on Minjerribah/North Stradbroke Island in 1989 as a backpacker from Ottawa, Ontario Canada. She has called the Island her home since 1992.

Paula began studies in 1993 and completed a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies with Honours in Ecology at Griffith University, with her thesis titled "The Rehabilitation following Sand Mining and Burning on North Stradbroke Island". As an ecologist, Paula developed an intimate knowledge of the vegetation and ecology of the island through her research and fieldwork, maintaining a lifelong passion for the natural environment.

Paula's learning and sharing as an artist started at a young age with her first introduction to basketry being coil stitch. Her sculptural artworks in 'Many Moods' display a variety of basketry techniques including stitching, twisting, coiling and weaving a plethora of natural fibres such as banana trunk, palm sheaths, ponytail palm leaves, palm inflorescence and raffia that express her connection to her mother and their long family line of women skilled in many art forms.

Paula's ongoing commitment to her music as a singer/songwriter is complimentary to the diverse skills she has as an ecologist and fibre artist, weaving across various cultures, sharing knowledge with others while learning new techniques that enable contemporary expressions of weaving as a vital art form.

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## 'My Mothers' – Story

This piece honours Paula's mothers who have come before her with their many talents which were necessary for survival rather than seen as art. In contemplation about the incredible talents that they developed through their lifetimes, Paula was inspired to create a series of sheath skirts stitched with hand-dyed raffia representing her mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers from which she is a descendant. 'My Mothers' speaks of Paula's motivation as an artist and her journey through the many moods of her life on the Island.



*Image of Paula*

*by Julie Sisco*

*Image of My Mothers*

*by Julie Sisco*



Exhibition dates  
19 November – 30 November 2019  
Woolloongabba Art Gallery (upstairs)



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