

Veisa / Ngunggilanha

exchange - give to each other



Blak Dot Gallery is proud to partner with Lancaster Press Fiji to present:

Veisa / Ngunggilanha

exchange - give to each other

About:

These works came together as part of a 'International Print Residency- Exchange' at Lancaster Press Fiji. We had gone with the openness with not only the idea of learning new skills and developing a new body of work but to have a meaningful exchange with local artists.

We teamed up with five Fijian artists, Susie Elliott, Mason James Lee, Josua Toganivalu, Irami Buli and Anare Somumu, we had the pleasure of being welcomed with a traditional kava ceremony and the sharing of food, we exchanged stories and experiences about our different cultures and art forms while creating along each other.

The main objective was to work with lithograph under the guidance of Master printer Peter Lancaster. Peter is a renowned lithographer, having established Lancaster Press in 1990 in Melbourne, now based in Fiji, assisted by Adrian Kellett, Founder/Printer - Sunshine Editions. Artists also explored lino, woodcut and collagraph in their down time, these works cumulating in a joint exhibition titled **Veisa / Ngunggilanha** meaning exchange - give to each other, at Lancaster Press Gallery Fiji, Oct-Nov 2023.

[A extension of this exhibition will be shown at Blak Dot Gallery in early 2025.](#)

'On behalf of our entire team, we extend our sincere gratitude to you all. We are grateful for the path we have embarked upon together and look forward to the journey ahead with great anticipation. May the mana of the land, sea, and sky guide us towards building a strong and lasting friendship between our two nations.'

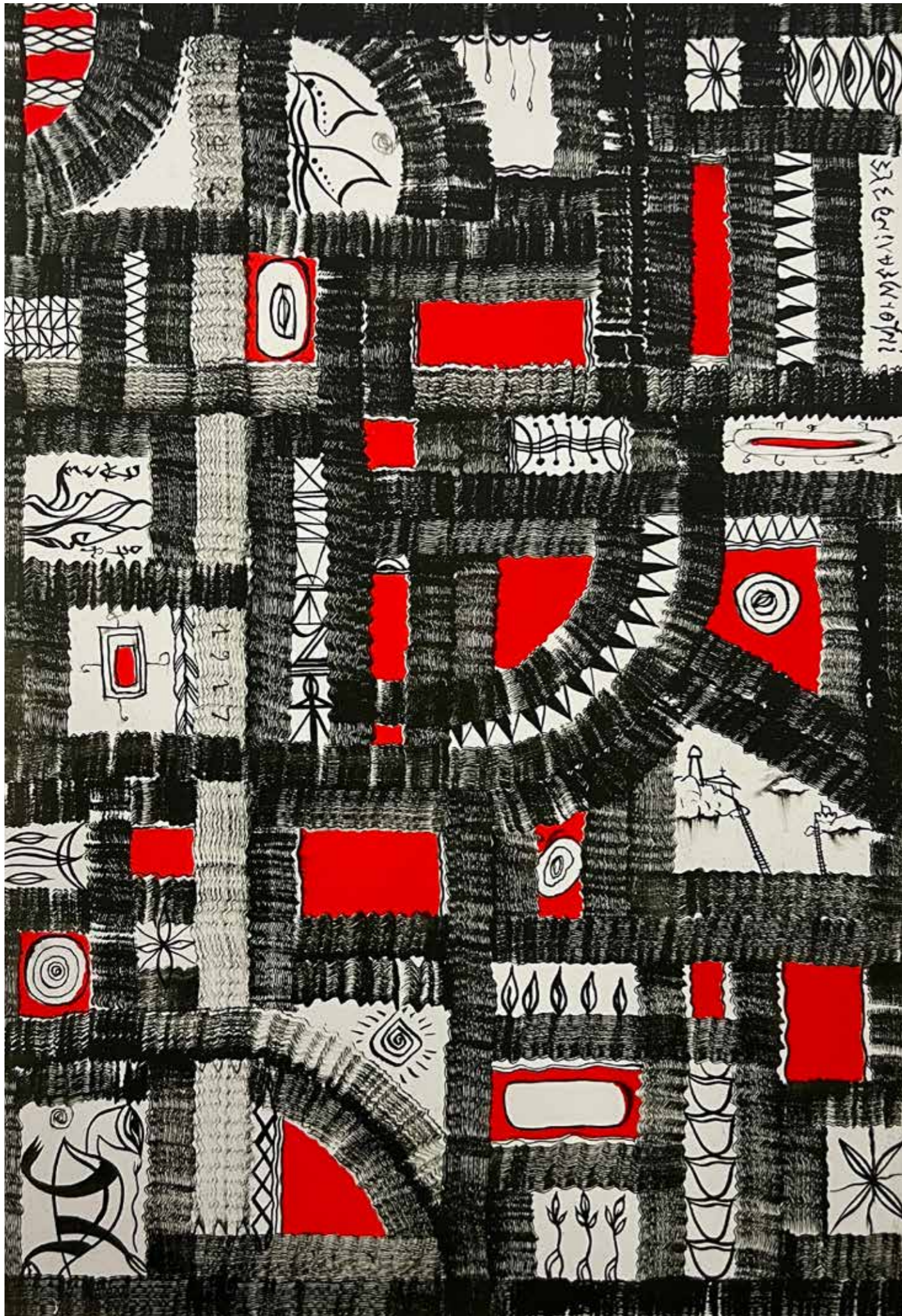
Irami Buli



L-R Top - Adrian Kellett, Mason James Lee, Josua Toganivalu, Peter Lancaster, Peter Waples-Crowe, Lisa Waup
L-R Bottom - Kimba Thompson, Irami Buli, Sonja Hodge, Anare Somumu

Blak Dot Gallery acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we work, live and create: the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people and Elders past and present of the Kulin nations, Naarm (Melbourne)





IRAMI BULI

Title: *Na Sala Tu*
(The Way Finder)

Date: 2023

Medium: Lithograph Print.

Size: 62 x 42 cm



The Way Finder, means to seek the path of connecting your heart, spirit, stories back to where you come from and where you belong. To preserve the knowledge that has been embedded within our fingerprints, to navigate our way in reconnecting with our ancient places and peoples. This is depicted in the black ink that portrays a weaving technique in knitting the ties that is lost within time. As we grow, as we develop, as we advance into this modern world, our approaches and world view begins to shift, but nevertheless we must always consider the wisdom and knowledge of our ancestors and safeguard it as our compass.

Irami is one of Fiji's most celebrated artist, he was mentored by an Academic Professor and a renowned painter, poet, and writer of the first and second wave of talented artists known to be the RED WAVE collective. A Contemporary and distinctive Painter by profession with decades of experience in the Arts locally and internationally he has become successfully celebrated for his wealth of achievements in Art Exhibitions in Fiji and the Pacific region.

"Art is not about how you can portray a perfect picture, for me it is more a self-portrait of who you do not know. The more I dwell within me the more curious I become about the millions of things I do not know about myself."

SUSIE ELLIOTT



Born in Fiji Susie lived and worked in New Zealand. During the 1990s, she studied Chinese brush techniques in Manila, Philippines, and upon her return to New Zealand, she continued her art education graduating with an Advanced Diploma in the Craft, Art & Design Programme at the Whitireia Community Polytechnic in Wellington in 1999. In 2001, she graduated with a BFA from The Quay School of the Arts, Wanganui, NZ majoring in Printmaking, later graduated with a Postgraduate Diploma in Museum Studies in 2002 at Massey University.

She then worked as a librarian in Wellington from 2003 to 2017. Susie has exhibited in the Philippines, New Zealand, and Fiji. Since her return to Fiji in 2017, Susie has worked tirelessly to build up her art practice. She has been involved in art projects and workshops, exhibitions, and commissions, and has since written two children's books on ocean stories.

Susie states: *'As an artist, returning to Fiji has altered how I regard the landscape here; my childhood country is foreign and yet, familiar. There are layers of intense self-examination going on in the way I see myself in this island's natural landscape. Drawing is a key part of this exploration. An important feature of my artistic process is working en plein air. I work with paints, inks, and graphite on paper in an expressionistic style.'*

Title: *Daugoli II 4/5*
Date: 2020.
Medium: Woodcut print.
Size: 30 x 15 cm



Title: *Na Bebe 5/5*
Date: 2020.
Medium: Woodcut print.
Size: 30 x 15 cm



SONJA HODGE



Title: *Yaka - Fish*
Date: 2023.
Medium: Lithograph print.
Size: 62 x 42 cm

My people, Lardil people come from an island, Gununa (Mornington Island) the largest of the Wellesley Islands in the Gulf of Carpentaria, Queensland.

I have always had an affinity with fish, their shape and form and how they effortlessly moved through water, their silvery scales and colours. Fish have sustained us for thousands of millennia, providing us with sustenance, tools, knowledge of seasons and a source of trade with our neighbours.

Fishing with family is not only a passing on of knowledge and skill but a time of bonding and connection, caring and nurturing for each other. Of late I have become aware of the global overfishing of our native waters by others and the impact that it has on First Nations in Australia and Pacific Countries and communities.

The lithograph I have drawn and painted was inspired by traditions of our mobs and dedicated to our families.

Sonja expresses her identity as a Lardil and Yangkaal woman through her strong designs of wreaths, leaves, waterways and figures, which speaks to her Aboriginality and the pride she feels for the resilience of her people. Sonja is a print-maker incorporating multi block and reduction Lino printing and Lithography.

MASON JAMES LEE

Title: *Tomorrow's Tribute*

Date: 2023

Medium: Lithograph print on stone with masi inlay.

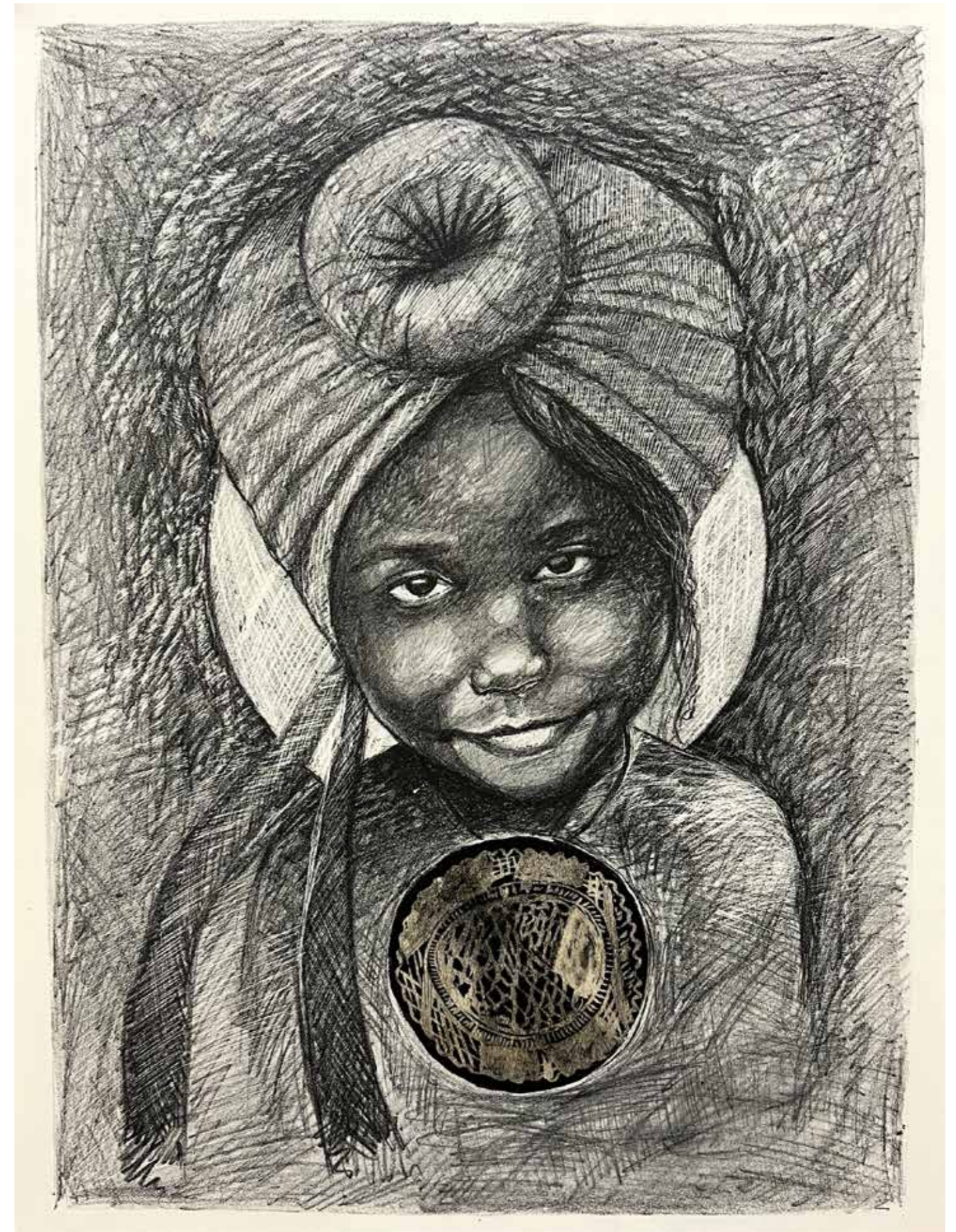
Size: 54 x 39 cm



Why tomorrow's Tribute. Who will be a leader, dictator, begger or prodigious one. Our children are the future, as guardian's we try to maintain protection, but who knows the value of integrity and innocence if a child has lost them. ?.

Mason James Lee is of Chinese and Fijian heritage and is one of Fiji's artist. Mason learnt art at a young age and is self taught. Mason was part of the Oceania Centre for Arts and Culture at the University of the South Pacific where he has been resident since 1999 till 2007 where he had worked on some of his technique and explored different mediums until he felt confident. Mason has been exhibiting his work since 2000 till today. His first Solo was in the year 2002 at the Oceania Centre for Arts and Culture. Lee attributes his predominantly red palette to the way "these colours represent the burning passion that I have within me to paint".

Mason enjoys art very much and often compares it to the revelation of the unseen world. The exploration of different techniques allow him to become more and more familiar with this world and dare to translate in colour and patterns some tormented and heavily patterned seas. His paintings offer to the eyes of the viewer a journey through his rich symbolic imagination.





LISA WAUP

Title: *windswept*

Date: 2023.

Medium: Linocut print.

Size: 30 x 30cm

JOSUA TOGANIVALU

Title: *Kusima*

Date: 2023

Medium: Linocut print.

Size: 30 x 30cm

IRAMI BULI

Title: *The Marching Dogs*

Date: 2023.

Medium: Linocut print.

Size: 30 x 30cm

PETER WAPLES-CROWE

Title: *Dingo in Paradise II*

Date: 2023.

Medium: Linocut print.

Size: 30 x 30cm



PETER WAPLES-CROWE

Title: *Dingo in Paradise I*

A/P

Date: 2023.

Medium: Linocut print.

SONJA HODGE

Title: *Yaka*

Date: 2023.

Medium: Linocut print.

Size: 30 x 30cm

JOSUA TOGANIVALU

Title: *Tuilomaniwai*

Date: 2023.

Medium: Linocut print.

Size: 30 x 30cm

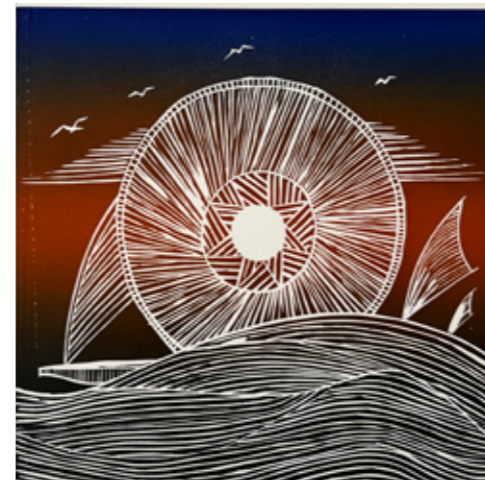
LISA WAUP

Title: *shifting plains*

Date: 2023.

Medium: Collagraph print.





SUSIE ELLIOTT

Title: *Sea Change 1/3*
Date: 2022.
Medium: Woodcut print.
Size: 25cm x 39cm

PETER WAPLES-CROWE

Title: *Dingo in Paradise III*
Date: 2023.
Medium: Linocut print.
Size: 30 x 30cm

MASON JAMES LEE

Title: *When the Sun Goes Down*
Date: 2023
Medium: Linocut print.
Size: 30 x 30cm

IRAMI BULI

Title: *The Dancer*
Date: 2023.
Medium: Linocut print.
Size: 30 x 30cm



SONJA HODGE

Title: *Yaka II*
Date: 2023.
Medium: Linocut print.
Size: 30 x 30cm

LISA WAUP

Title: *come together*
Date: 2023.
Medium: Linocut print
Size: 30 x 30cm

PETER WAPLES-CROWE

Title: *Betty Boo*
Date: 2023.
Medium: Collagraphy print.
Size: 30 x 30cm

SUSIE ELLIOTT

Title: *Veisa / Ngunggilanha 1/3*
Date: 2023.
Medium: Linocut print.
Size: 30 x 30cm



ANARE SOMUMU

Title: *Silent Earth*

Date: 2023.

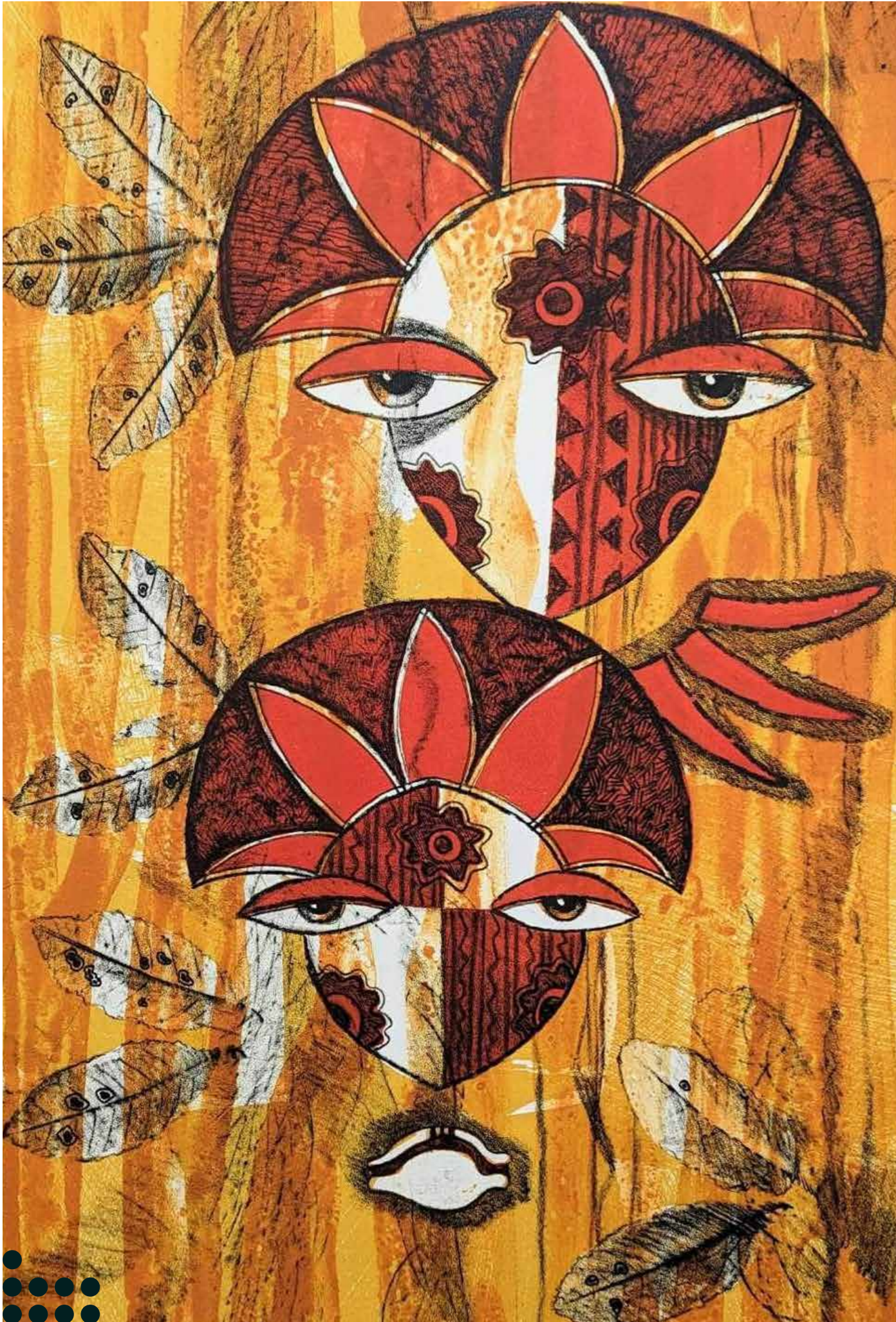
Medium: Lithograph print.

Size: 62 x 42 cm



'Silent Earth' is my personal tribute to my identity as a 'iTaukei' and my silent quest to find my true calling, purpose and responsibility to my people while my feet stay connected to Mother Earth. It is also a silent reflection on my many mistakes and weaknesses along the way and personal yearnings to find forgiveness.

Born in 1971 in Lakeba Village, Saqani, Cakaudrove, Fiji, Anare lives and works in the nation's capital, Suva. Beginning his art career in 1991, he was first involved in illustrating children's books for Fiji's education system spanning more than 15 years. He later worked as a painter, mainly drawing inspiration from the natural world, Fiji's indigenous culture and traditions, and humanity as a whole. Anare is naturally talented and considered one of Fiji's most influential and well respected artists.



JOSUA TOGANIVALU

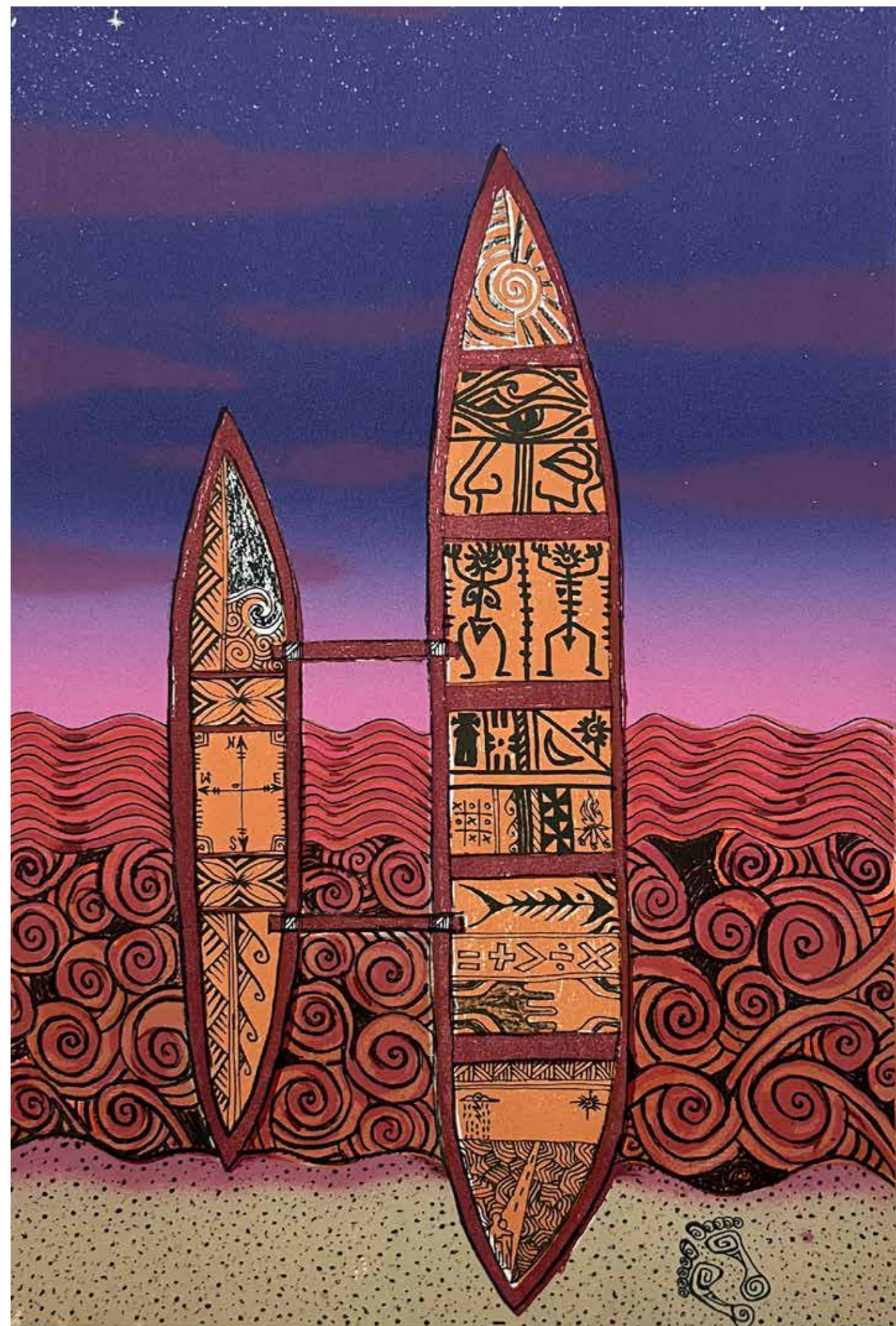
Title: *New Beginings*
Date: 2022.
Medium: Lithograph Print.
Size: 59 x39 cm



The Vaka represents the journey that must be travelled through life no matter how rough the sea is or stormy the weather may be. Setting sails to New Beginings after hitting rock bottom is a reoccurring journey. A journey of resilience that no matter water ever life throws at you you will always get up and sail again using the Southern Cross is your guide. The images in the Vaka represents phases and elements in our journey. Aim for the sky, but sail slowly, enjoying every wave and sea breeze along the way. The footprints at the bottom of the pic represents humility that while we aim for the sky we must always remain grounded.

Josua Toganivalu is a self-taught artist and graphic designer, currently working from Suva, Fiji. Toganivalu's artwork considers both his Indigenous Fijian identity and his reflections on wider issues in society today. He connects to his cultural traditions through earth colours and grid-compositions, while maintaining contemporary relevance through his illustrated motifs.

Toganivalu was a founding member of the Red Wave Collective, which pioneered Fiji's contemporary painting movement in the 1990s and early 2000s. Over the past two decades, Toganivalu's works have been collected by institutions and private collectors around Fiji and increasingly worldwide. He has exhibited across the Oceania region in group shows and represented Fiji through regional Arts Festivals.



PETER WAPLES-CROWE



Title: *Affirm*

Date: 2023.

Medium: Lithograph print.

Size: 62 x 42 cm



The print came from a dream image I had after attending a gender affirming practice session. I wanted to create an experimental print and try new techniques about the idea of identity affirmation in all its forms for me personally.

My Aboriginality, spirituality and sexuality are all important to who I am and getting them affirmed as I lived my life would have been so supportive. Having our identities affirm is good for all of us. Created in the wake of the NO vote I think this print is even more relevant.

Peter Waples-Crowe is a multidisciplinary artist who's practice explores the intersection of an Indigenous queer identity, spirituality and Australia's ongoing colonisation. Influenced by his adoption and later reconnection to his Ngarigo heritage, Peter's work comments on the world as a contested site for his multiple identities. Referencing many disparate ideas and themes his work is auto ethnographic by nature and largely based on personal experience.

LISA WAUP

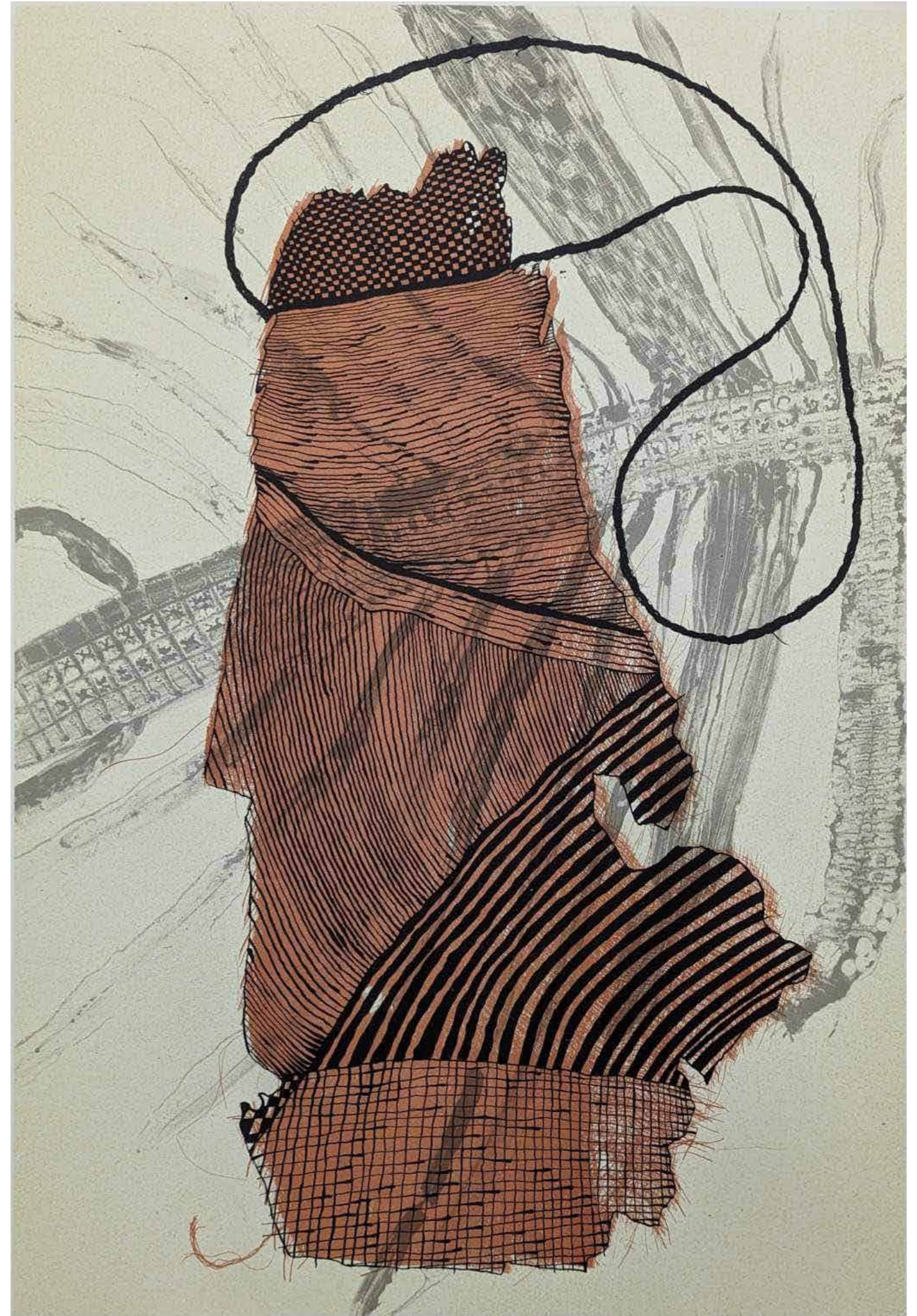


Title: *holding/keeping*
Date: 2023.
Medium: Lithograph print.
Size: 62 x 42 cm

holding/keeping came out from time spent at the residency, I purposefully went to Fiji not knowing what I would create there. It was important for me to be grounded in my surroundings, to listen, to see, to hear and to feel what was around me before creating. Colours revealed themselves to me, textures, shadows and materiality was exposed. I wanted to be inspired by what was around me, this is how *holding/keeping* evolved. I was handed coconut fibre which instantly to me looked like a bag, I began to stitch extra fibres on to the existing armature. Shadows from the ever-present palm fronds revealed themselves and I took an extensive number of photos, experimenting with the black and white shadows that spoke in the colourful surroundings.

For me bags are an extension of the 'vessel' and are a recurring presence in my work, they evoke recognition of care, inner strength, and mother. The bag represents a mother's womb, connection to mother nature - MOTHER. Mother is a nurturer, a holder. She is the keeper and protector. She calls out to be valued and taken care of, this is a responsibility of each and every one of us – and in turn she will care for us.

Lisa Waup is a mixed-cultural First Nations artist and curator, born in Narm (Melbourne), whose multidisciplinary practice encompasses a diverse range of media, including weaving, experimental printmaking, photography, sculpture, fashion, and digital art. With a deep connection to the symbolic power of materials, her work reflects her personal experiences, family history, Country, and broader historical narratives. Through her practice, Waup weaves together threads of lost history, ancestral relationships, motherhood, and the passage of time, culminating in contemporary expressions that speak to her past, present, and future. Waup is currently a Lecturer in the Drawing and Printmaking Department at Victorian College of the Arts and the University of Melbourne.



Acknowledgements



Blak Dot Gallery would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we created on while in Fiji, the people of “NAKURUVAKARUA i LOUVATU na KA LEVU”(Cuvu District) The original custodians chiefdom of the land of Cuvu, Nayevuyevu, Tore, Yadua, Rukurukulevu, Hanahana, Sila.

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Public Relations Officer
Mr. Jone Kalouniviti



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