

# COSMIC ECHOES

SHARED SKY INDIGENOUS ART EXHIBITION



## 5-15 AUGUST

CAPE TOWN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE



## Cosmic Echoes

### Shared Sky Indigenous Art Exhibition

Australian and South African Indigenous artists explore creativity at the intersection of modern science and ancient wisdom.

A transformative journey of collaboration between world-renowned artists, local youth, and Elders who have been inspired by the traditional knowledge of ancient cultures and the wonders of modern science.

*Cosmic Echoes* stems from a vision by the SKA Observatory (SKAO) and its partners, the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) and CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, to bring together under one sky South African and Australian artists in a collaborative exhibition. A celebration of humanity's ancient cultural wisdom. This vision embodies the spirit of international science and engineering collaboration that is the SKAO itself, bringing together many nations around two unique and culturally rich sites in Australia and South Africa to study the same sky.

This exhibition reflects the richness of the Indigenous understanding of the world; an understanding developed by observing the movements of the night sky since ancient times. *Cosmic Echoes* explores how this traditional knowledge resonates in the creativity of living artists who are sharing their insights with scientists working to unlock the secrets of the Universe.

About a decade ago, the first SKAO Indigenous art exhibition called *Shared Sky* was developed by the John Curtin Gallery at Curtin University, in association with SARAO, SKA Australia, and in collaboration with Yamaji Art, Geraldton, Australia and the First People Centre at the Bethesda Art Centre, South Africa.

*Cosmic Echoes* is the successor of this venture, highlighting once more the creativity of the people of the remote regions where the SKAO's telescopes are being built.

In June 2024, a group of artists worked with local Indigenous youth and Elders in South Africa to prepare for the *Cosmic Echoes Exhibition*. The workshops in Carnarvon, in the Northern Cape region where the SKA-Mid telescope is being built, produced visual art as well as performance art.

Meanwhile in Western Australia, the SKAO and CSIRO commissioned and briefed a group of Aboriginal visual artists from the Wajarri Yamaji People, Traditional Owners and Native Title Holders of the land where the SKA-Low telescope is located.

In addition to featuring mainly established artists, the *Cosmic Echoes Exhibition* curates the youth work in a creative conversation with their professional counterparts. And in turn the artists from Australia and South Africa are 'in conversation' with each other and with the SKAO scientists. Together they achieve an elegant symmetry, echoes of a distant past that speak to a common future.

The *Cosmic Echoes: Shared Sky Indigenous Art Exhibition* is an SKAO initiative, in collaboration with SARAO, CSIRO and the Wajarri Yamaji Aboriginal Corporation.

The SKAO recognises and acknowledges the Indigenous peoples and cultures that have traditionally lived on the lands on which their facilities are located.

In Australia, the SKAO and CSIRO acknowledge the Wajarri Yamaji as Traditional Owners and Native Title Holders of Inyarrimanha Ilgari Bundara, the CSIRO Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory, the site where the SKA-Low telescope is being built.





**Bundaras (Stars)**  
**Noeleen Hamlett**

Acrylic on canvas 76 x 52 cm

Under our southern sky the Southern Cross is our compass at night. The Emu in the Milky Way tells us when it's emu egg season. The Seven Sisters teach vital skills and lessons of survival, of changing seasons and talks of creation. The Sisters became part of the landscape, water and springs as they fled from Yurlu. It also teaches us of the bond of family and relationships. The flower-shaped symbol and the emu footprints represent moving forward, coming together to reflect our vision to create a better future. The telescopes look beyond the black holes in our galaxy to challenge and enrich our understanding of the Universe.



**Eternal Arrow**  
**Terence Visagie**

Acrylic on canvas 130 x 80 cm

An ancient hunter and a radio telescope united in their aim to pierce the skies. The eland is sacred to the First Nations of South Africa and central to our cultural traditions. We draw inspiration from the past while looking to a future with endless possibilities.



**Open Sky**  
**Pierre Cloete**

Acrylic on canvas - 150 x 150 cm

A man and a woman doing a KhoeSan celebration dance, transform into mythological beings existing beyond time and space. Honouring our ancient understanding of the connectedness of all that is. Modern technology and indigenous knowledge reaching out to each other across wide open skies.



**The Sky Meets the Land**  
**Godfrena Gilla**

Acrylic on canvas Triptych - width 150 cm

Stars across the sky shine like my Ancestors. They protect us so we can protect the land and animals. When the sun shines the plants, animals and bush tucker (Indigenous food) come to life. The water runs through the desert in creeks and around water holes where we set up camp for the night to eat and listen to Dreamtime stories.





**Children of the San XI: A Star Is Born**  
**Junior Oliphant**

Acrylic on canvas - 150 x 150 cm

A woman journeys with her newborn baby to celebrate the birth during the Easter season. She has calculated the right time for the ritual by consulting the moon and the stars.



**Seven Sisters**  
**Vanessa Kelly**

Acrylic on Canvas - 76 x 83 cm

Seven sisters formed themselves into dust from Earth to hide as stars in the sky.



**Footprints of the Eyes**  
**Hendreas Vaalbooi**

Mixed Media - 85 x 120 cm

The stars shine gently like the soft glow of the eyes of the children. The moon casts its eye on the earth to light our way. You can aim a stone at the head of the gemsbok from any direction and you will not find your mark. He has the sharp eyes of a sentry. Just like the Hok Meisie (Female Initiate), on guard at all times. A Bushman is always alert, searching for sustenance. That is why we are the best protectors of nature.

## The Girl Who Made the Milky Way

My mother is the one who told me  
The girl arose  
the girl of the Early Race  
She put her hands into the wood ash  
threw it up into the sky  
Said to the wood ash;  
"You must become the Milky Way  
You must white lie along in the sky."

The Milky Way is the Milky Way  
while it used to be wood ash  
My mother is the one who told me

The Milky Way goes round with the stars  
The stars sail along  
The Milky Way graces the earth  
It turns across in front  
It means to wait but it worries  
The Stars are turning back  
The Stars feel the Sun is turning back  
The Stars turn back to fetch the daybreak  
That they may leave quietly  
The Milky Way goes softly  
Stars sail along on their footprints  
Becoming white, young white !huing roots  
The Sun comes out and the Sun sets  
The darkness comes out, the stars wax red  
Old red !huing roots

The Milky Way is the Milky Way  
while it used to be wood ash  
My mother is the one who told me

The people go by night  
The ground is made light  
The Milky Way gently glows  
It knows that it is wood ash  
It knows the girl of the Early Race said  
The Milky Way should give a little light  
That we might return home by night

She first gently threw up wood ash into the sky  
That she might presently throw up !huing roots  
She was angry with her mother  
The girl in the sacred hut  
Could not go out to seek food  
Could not get !huing for herself  
She was hungry while she lay  
Becoming a woman in the hut  
Her mother was the one bringing food

My mother was the one who told me  
The girl could not eat the young men's game  
She ate the game of her father who was an old man  
If the girl ate the young men's game  
Their hands would become cool  
The arrowhead would be cold  
The arrowhead would feel the bow is cold  
The bow would feel the young men's hands are cold

My mother was the one who told me  
The girl of the Early Race  
!Xwe-|na-ssho-!ke  
Put her hands into the wood ash  
Threw it up into the sky  
Said to the wood ash;  
"You must become the Milky Way"  
She also threw into the air  
The rosy !huing roots to become the Stars

This girl must not hold the gaze of the springbok  
My mother used to tell me

Folkloric Poetry contained in the Bleek-Lloyd Archive that has been entered into the *Unesco Memory of the World Register*.  
The informants are /Xam people from the Northern Cape mainly //Kabbo, /Han ≠ Kasso, !Kweiten ta | |ken Rachel and Dia!Kwain

## The Artists

### Godfrena Gilla - Australia

My name is Godfrena Gilla, I was born in Meekatharra and I come from the Yamatji tribe. I get my artistic skills from my great grandmother and grandmother on my father's side, my Yamatji mob. I have a strong connection to my Country and art. My great grandmother was a famous artist well known for her emu egg carvings and paper bark art.

She got to present an emu egg to Prince Charles.

My father has told me many stories about the Dreamtime and has inspired me to become a Yamatji artist. I'm proud of my people and all the stories I've been told about my Ancestors. They were very strong people and had a strong connection and understanding with our land and culture.

I love when I can bring a story to life on canvas. I've been painting since I was 14 years old, it connects me to my Country where I come from and grew up at Meekatharra meaning a place of little water. I paint about the creeks and water holes I swam in and the bush tucker my father taught me to hunt for and cook on the fire. We spent many times in the bush listening to animals at night and my father's Dreamtime stories. My father was my biggest supporter and pushed me to do what I love to do... put paint to canvas. I know he will be proud of me and I will continue to paint to keep my connection with him and my Country.

### Terence Visagie - South Africa

I was born in 1968, the darkest times of the anti Apartheid resistance in South African. I am an artist who works in charcoal, pastel and oils and I focus primarily on capturing Indigenous faces and bodies. I have a particular fascination with the traditional Rieldans. It is an ancient dance my people the First Nations of South Africa would do to celebrate a good hunt, a bountiful harvest, courtship or just the everyday joyousness of life.

### Noeleen Hamlett - Australia

I grew up in the small town of Mullewa on Wajarri Country in Western Australia. As a child I was inspired by my mum and brother who carved emu eggs. I have 8 daughters and 15 grandchildren and currently live in Perth where I studied Visual Arts. As a professional Aboriginal artist, my art and research practice often combine traditional practice with unconventional techniques using other mediums that transform the image to a narrative of 'Memory and Land'. This combination explores how conflicting mediums work together, creating a unique visual language and representing historical stories as part of an ongoing project.

A key intention is to invite the viewer to a closer understanding of Wajarri's unique culture through exploring land from topographical views of location. I will always have a passion for my culture and Country.

### Pierre Cloete - South Africa

I am a self-taught painter and graphic artist who works predominantly in oils. I focus on landscape, still life, abstract art, seascapes and portraits. My work is based on personal experience and traditional stories passed on by the Elders.

My aim is to capture the raw essence and emotion of being a Khoe or First Nations person connected to an ancient culture but living in modern times. My work is mostly constructed from recycled material. It is always an exceptional and spiritual experience, the whole process from the point of inception, through the creation and on to the final product. I tell the stories of forgotten people. I am a custodian of Indigenous knowledge and art.

## The Artists

### **Vanessa Kelly - Australia**

I am a Nyarlu woman from Western Australia who belongs to two tribes, Wajarri from the Murchison and Nhanda from the Western Australian coast. I love painting stories of my history, culture and stories told to me to pass on to the young people of my culture. Each individual painting brings out so much of my spirituality. Sharing them makes me so proud of my People and culture.

### **Hendreas Vaalbooi - South Africa**

I am a San Bushman Artist and I work with different mediums mainly oil, acrylic and water colour. Sometimes I also work in pencil and charcoal. I focus on rock art, landscapes and portraits. I have not been taught this, I was born with it. Most of my work is based on an instinct. I do not plan things, the ideas just come to me. The work presents itself to me in the colours of nature. My aims are to make people aware that our rock art culture is still thriving and to involve the youth in this work.

### **Junior Oliphant - South Africa**

As a First Nations man growing up in a 'coloured' township, my aim is to create a platform for artists to show the world the richness of our humanity, beyond the damaging stereotypes. I tell stories from the outlanders (die buitelanders), from a place on the margins. Untold stories of everyday people in the past and the present. My art is unapologetic, using mediums such as photography, pencil and acrylic. I am exploring my identity through art and in this way getting closer to the real history of my culture.



## The Stars Say Tsau

For Indigenous people all of creation has a spiritual essence and the stars have governed our behaviour since ancient times. We have always looked up to the sky to know when to hunt, when to sow, when to harvest and how to be aligned with the seasons. The Universe speaks in a soft language that the Ancients understood. The heart of the artist perceives the echoes of the softness and shares it with the world. And, elsewhere on the landscape of understanding, scientists unravel the very same messages.



### The First Astronomers

**Dawn Hamlett & Leeann Kelly-Pedersen**

Acrylic on canvas - 153 x 122 cm

Our ancestors travelled this land for many years in Australia, living off the land and following the seasons in search of food and water in their tribal family groups. All men carried out cultural ceremonies from their tribal grounds. They would attend meetings on a special ground where they would gather with other tribes.

Travelling across our Country was always at night. Our Ancestors found a way to travel to their destination by studying the night sky and using the stars as a compass to guide their way, with the full Moon for light. This painting represents our Ancestors' travel method, including the Milky Way which was also important to them. It guided the way and they also followed the movement of the emu, that can be seen in the Milky Way, to know when it was the egg laying season.

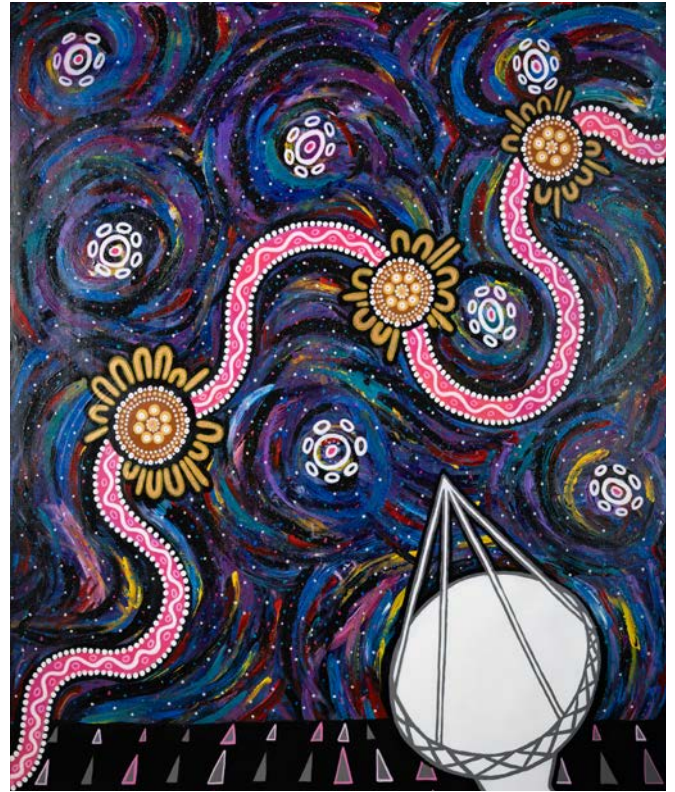
The Nyarlwarri (Seven Sisters, Pleiades) can be seen on the right. The Morning Star can be seen at the bottom, to the left is the Southern Cross and the large circle at the top is the full Moon with the Evening Star next to the Moon. The pink dots represent the wildflower seasons and also the aurora in the sky. The Southern Cross, Morning and Evening stars are the main features used as a compass.



**Terence Visagie and Youth Artists**  
**Essential Connectedness**

Acrylic on canvas - 75 x 75 cm

We are bound to each other by invisible and unbreakable threads that connect us with all that is.



**Seven Sisters**  
**Noeleen Hamlett**

Acrylic on canvas - 153 x 122 cm

The Seven Sisters in our night sky guiding us in our search with the telescopes and Christmas tree-shaped antennas. Leading us into a better future, as we come together at our meeting places, taking a big step forward.





**Shooting Star**  
**Hendreas Vaalbooi**

Mixed Media - 20 x 30 cm

We believe that a Shooting Star brings luck and can make your wishes come true. If your faith and your belief is strong, you can achieve your dreams. The Shooting Star is a marker pointing us the way that we need to go.



**The Eclipse**  
**Susan Merry**

Acrylic on canvas - 77 x 77 cm

The eclipse and all the people watching it.



## A Hunter's Plea to the Stars

We talk with the stars  
There's a great hunger deep inside us  
The star sits in a place of plenty  
We ask for the stars to take our hearts  
To leave in its place a star's heart  
With a star's heart we will not know hunger  
They curse for us the springbok's eyes

My grandfather teaches me  
To listen to the stars  
Summer it is when they sound  
The stars are calling "Tsau! Tsau!"  
Bushmen are saying  
The stars say "Tsau!" They say "Tsau! Tsau!"  
They curse for us the springbok's eyes

I am the one who is listening to them  
I am the one who asks my grandfather Tsatsi  
What things could it be speaking thus  
My grandfather says;  
"The stars are those who say, Tsau  
while they curse for us the springbok's eyes."

Growing up I am listening  
To the stars say "Tsau Tsau"  
Summer it is when they sound  
The stars say "Tsau!"  
They say "Tsau! Tsau!"  
While they curse for us the springbok's eyes

At night I sleep next to my Grandfather  
By day we sit in the coolness outside  
I ask about the things who speak thus  
"It is the stars who speak," he says  
"They curse for us the springbok's eyes"  
When //Ukoa-ggu the bright star Canopus rises  
My grandfather says to the stars;

Give me your heart with which you sit in plenty  
Take my heart with which I am desperately hungry  
That I might also be full, like you  
Give me your stomach with which you are satisfied  
Take my stomach that you may also hunger

Give me also your arm  
And take my arm  
with which I do not kill  
For I miss my aim

My grandfather yearns  
for his arrow to hit the springbok  
He wishes for the star's arm  
while the star takes his arm  
with which he misses his aim

When he is done talking with the star  
Pleading with //Ukoa-ggu  
the bright star, Canopus  
He becomes quiet  
He moves away  
He sits down  
In his heart he is wishing  
To sit and sharpen an arrow

The stars say "Tsau Tsau!"  
Summer it is when they sound  
The stars say "Tsau!"  
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## The Raw Essence

Pierre Cloete

8 x Mono Prints

Acrylic on Paper - 42 x 60 cm



!Khao-khoen or Family



The River that flows through us



Ancient Tongues



!Goas The Girl



Veldkos (Bush Tucker)



The Xamanin Animal



Ash In the Sky



Tribal Echoes

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**Leeann Kelly-Pedersen - Australia**

I was born in Carnarvon, Western Australia and lived for most of my childhood between Carnarvon and Mullewa. I had an early interest in art, it was always my favourite subject at school, and I studied visual art. I am inspired by my mother, Dawn Hamlett, and also by places and things I have experienced or seen on my life journey. I have illustrated a book and created and designed topical themed posters for the Wajarri, Badimaya and Nhanda languages for the Bundiyarra Irra Wangga Language Centre. As a Wajarri Language Teacher, I've also created children's storybooks and other resources in the Wajarri language to teach children.

**Susan Merry - Australia**

I am a proud Wajarri woman born out on Meeberrie station in the Murchison region of Western Australia and lived out on Country through my childhood. I now live in the town of Mullewa, a short drive from where I grew up. Both of my parents were also born out on Meeberrie station. I find it very relaxing when I'm painting and absolutely love making art every day. I love painting about my Country and sharing stories from my life in the bush.

**Dawn Hamlett - Australia**

I am a proud Wajarri Woman with connections to the Byro area. I love painting all things connected to my wonderful Country. Painting is one of my passions.



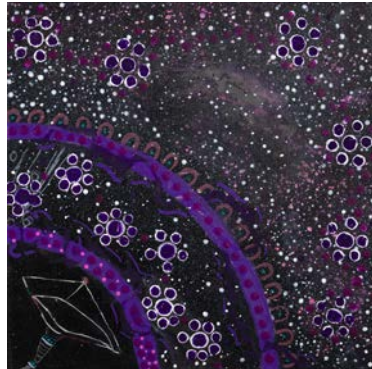
## Who Am I

### Caught between the earth and sky

Our Ancestors believed that to walk the earth with no mind to the sky we could survive but never thrive. To cross the borders from our place to theirs, we bring the outside inside, listen to the animals and heed the timeless rituals. The language of the stars is echoed in everything on earth.

**"We must walk the Sky for we are heaven's things."**

- //Kabbo a 19th Century Bushman Visionary.



#### Little Things Grow

##### Carlleen Dingo

Acrylic on canvas - triptych

61 x 30.5 cm, 35.5 x 35.5 cm & 35.5 x 35.5 cm

The circles represent the past, present and future, not quite linking up to hint at time passing.

The important elements are:

- The larger work represents the past. A historic meeting with the 10 original Elders who submitted the first Wajarri Native Title claim. This gave Wajarri People a voice as they came together to share the importance of Country. Footprints in the river sand represent those Wajarri People who have passed and whose names are no longer spoken but their names remain in community memories.
- Bottom right (small colourful piece) represents the present. Wildflower season, running barefoot through the flowers along the Gascoyne and Murchison Rivers, makes us present. Water makes everything come to life, full of colour.
- Top right (purple and black) represents the future. Antenna standing proudly in the mid-Western Australia on Wajarri Land. Learning the stories hidden in the glow of the night sky, while the Emu in the Sky tells us a different story.

#### Carlleen Dingo

I am a proud Wajarri Yamaji woman originally from Geraldton, well-connected and respected within the Wajarri community and the broader Yamatji Nation, across the Mid West, Murchison and Gascoyne regions. I'm passionate about my art and I use it to tell the stories of the Wajarri People past, present and future.



**Terence Visagie & Youth Artists**  
**Crossing Oceans Inside**  
 Photo Collages 42 x 59.4 cm

The Northern Cape Youth Participants in the project developed individual compositions using sand, rocks, fynbos (indigenous flora) and paper cutouts to create engaging compositions that were photographed. Bringing the outside inside. Rocks become planets and sand morphs into cosmic dust. We use elements from earth to show our connection to the heavens and to honour the way our Ancestors guide us towards a brighter future.

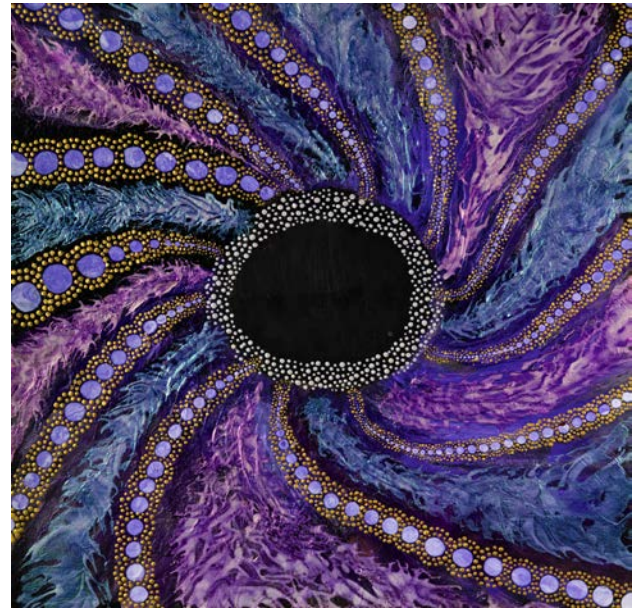
Brayton Vyver  
 Cherman Dollies  
 Je-dewaan Jann  
 Shirdio Saaiman  
 Tylor Mouers





**Healing Dance**  
**Hendreas Vaalbooi**  
 Mixed Media - 21 x 30 cm

We do the Healing Dance around the fire at night to pave the way for our Elders to travel to the place of the Ancestors. They go there to ask for help to heal our people. The entire Universe participates. The Stars twinkle in our hearts, the Moon lights our way and all of Nature bestows its wisdom upon us so that healing can take place.



**The Black Hole**  
**Vanessa Kelly**  
 Acrylic on canvas - 77 x 80 cm





**The Great Spirit**  
**Shirdio Saaiman**

Acrylic on Paper - 30 x 42 cm

A KhoeSan man walks in the fields by night. He encounters an eland and they see the figure of the Great Spirit in the sky. A big, bright star shows them the way and leads them on the right path. I am a 17-year-old Grade 11 learner at Carnarvon High School. I love drawing and I also play rugby for the school. I don't socialise much.



**The Milky Way on Country**  
**Vanessa Kelly**

Acrylic on canvas, 91 x 122cm

Out at the Murchison with the telescope on Country where SKAO exists. The small colourful dots are stars.

## Echoes of Kinship

The Eland moves through the wild with the wisdom of the ages. The stride of the Emu is a dance of resilience and it walks among the stars. //Kaggen The Mantis is a master of stillness.

The Ostrich embraces the paradox of wings that cannot fly. In Indigenous folklore the animals teach, they inspire and they have equal agency over the earth. In the night sky we see the echoes of our connection to the earth and its creatures.

In Southern Africa mythology the Seven Sisters, also known as the Pleiades, marks the start of the ploughing season. The cluster is seen by some as a group of elders telling stories around the fireside or women fleeing an angry hunter, just as it is in Australia. Another story says it is a bag of ostrich eggs, left behind by an angry hunter who failed to shoot a zebra. His wife forbade him to return home empty handed and so his discarded arrow and the seven eggs remain in the sky. Winter is coming when the Seven Sisters are low on the horizon and just before these stars disappear from the Southern skies. When Pleiades returns it is time to prepare the fields.

Among the Hessequa people of the Khoekhoe First Nations there is story of how mothers would take their newborn babies to a high place and lift them up to meet the Seven Sisters when it reappeared. There was dancing and singing and prayers for a bountiful season.

## Garth's Ostrich Eggs

In South Africa ostrich eggs are an important, almost spiritual, component of Indigenous folk art. It is used decoratively being painted or carved with Bushman imagery. The strong shell is also chipped and the pieces fashioned to make jewellery.



## Garth Erasmus

I am a visual artist, sound artist and musician whose work focuses on South Africa's First Nations people, the KhoeSan. I am best known for my innovative use of materials. My audio-related explorations and experimentations utilise self-made instruments and sound objects, created from mostly recycled materials and based on the inspiration from indigenous knowledge systems.



### **Leeann's Emu Egg #1**

The Emu in the Sky can be seen in the Milky Way on a clear night. You see it in the dark parts of the Milky Way. Aboriginal people use this constellation to tell us when it's time to hunt for emu eggs. When the Emu looks low this is the time to go egg hunting. We eat the emu egg and cook it in many different ways. The emu egg cake is a favourite.



### **Leeann's Emu Egg #2**

Nyarluwarri, the Seven Sisters, or the star cluster Pleiades in the constellation Taurus. The Yamaji People of the Mid-West region of Western Australia know that when Nyarluwarri sits low on the horizon at sunset it means the emus have laid their eggs. The brightness of Nyarluwarri also helps Yamaji People to predict rain.



### **Gail's Emu Egg**

Seven Sisters, 3 Kings/Pot and the Milky Way

Looking outside at night and you will find the Seven Sisters, the Three Kings and the Milky Way in the beautiful dark skies of Wajarri Country.

### **Gail Rose Simpson**

I am a Wajarri (Ngarloo) Woman that grew up in the Murchison (Bunna) Land of Western Australia with my parents and extended family. I have a large family that loves going bush to find seasonal food. Looking into the skies is a very common thing, especially at night. Living out on Country and at Yalgoo we are so lucky to have the most amazing, breathtaking, beautiful sunrises and sunsets in the world.





### **Emu in the Sky** **Vanessa Kelly**

Acrylic on canvas - 125 x 120 cm

The Emu in the Sky can be seen in the Milky Way on a clear night. You will see it in the dark parts of the Milky Way. Aboriginal people use the feature to tell us when it is time to hunt. When the Emu looks low it is the time to go egg hunting. The emu egg cake is a favourite.



### **The Meerkat** **Brayton Vyver**

Acrylic on paper - 30 x 40 cm

This is for people that don't know how the inside of the meerkat works. The South African MeerKAT radio telescope is a precursor to the SKA Observatory.

I am a 17-year-old Grade 11 learner. I like to talk less and do more but with that said, I'm a pretty quiet guy. I like to play video games.



### **Emu in the Milky Way** **Susan Merry**

Acrylic on canvas - 75 x 60 cm

The Emu in the sky in the Milky Way and the Seven Sisters shining brightly.



### **Emu in the Sky** **Leeann Kelly-Pedersen**

Acrylic on Canvas 65 x 110 cm

Elders sitting around a campfire yarning and teaching the young children about Dreamtime stories of the sky and stars. All planets are in the painting, also the Seven Sisters. The Southern Cross and the moon up in the corner. The painting is about the Milky Way as well, with the Emu in the Milky Way. Elders explain that when the emu is standing it is roaming, and when it is laying down it is emu egg season. This tells us when to go hunting.



**The Eland**  
**Hendreas Vaalbooi**  
 Oil on canvas - 21 x 30 cm

The Eland is a sacred animal that reflects the peace and calm of the night. It is sacred because the female will run with her calf only for a while. When her baby is tired, she will shield it with her body, standing with her legs spread out above the young calf, and tears flow from her eyes. Who can shoot such an animal? In just the same way, Mother Nature stands over us protectively.



**Mantis Mother**  
**Pierre Cloete**  
 Acrylic on Paper - 42 x 60 cm



**Mantis Meeting**  
**Pierre Cloete, Cherman Dollies & Brayton Vyver**  
 Acrylic on paper - 30 x 42 cm



**Ostrich Dance**  
**Pierre Cloete**  
 Acrylic on paper - 42 x 60 cm



**Eland's Eyes**  
**Pierre Cloete**  
 Acrylic on paper - 21 x 30 cm

## Descendants Of An Ancient Star

*We are the leaves and branches of an Ancient Tree, itself descended from the Sky Mother, the Moon Father and their Star Children. The leaves, the tree and the heavens all bound together by love.*

**-Artist Hendreas Vaalbooi**

The Great Star !Gaunu falls in love with a young flower and asks his Sister, one of the most beautiful of all the flowers in the heavens for assistance. The flower that he loves will not open. His sister comes to his aid and the young flower blooms. The Great Star !Gaunu is so happy he begins to sing. He urges his sister to sing along with him. As they sing, flowers of unparalleled beauty open on the earth, one by one. In the realm below, the /Xam women take up his song and the veldkos (bush tucker) ripens. And so it is that every year the Great Star !Gaunu, his beloved and his sister sing the opening of the flowers with a love song. The veld comes alive with blossoms and food that cannot be found anywhere else on earth.



### Descendants of An Ancient Tree Hendreas Vaalbooi

Mixed media - 21 x 30 cm

We are the leaves and branches of an Ancient Tree, itself descended from the Sky Mother, the Moon Father and their Star Children. The leaves, the tree and the Heavens all bound together by love.



### Song of the Hunt Callers Pierre Cloete

Acrylic on paper - 42 x 60 cm







### **Pointer Star of the Khoe**

**Tylor Mouers**

Acrylic on paper - 30 x 42 cm

Our people the KhoeSan used the stars to find their way around at night. Now they are building telescopes under the same skies our Ancestors knew so well. I'm a Grade 10 learner and I like to play soccer.



### **Secrets of the Khoe**

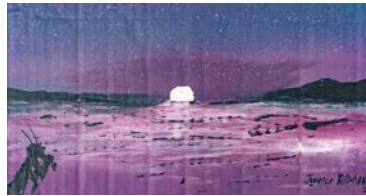
**Je-dewaan Jann**

Acrylic on Paper - 30 x 42 cm

There are bright secrets in the Karoo mountains where the SKA is building their telescopes. My name is Je-dewaan Jann. I am in Grade 10 and I play soccer. I don't socialise much.



**The Hunt**  
**Pierre Cloete &**  
**Je-dewaan 'Jordan' Jann**  
 Acrylic on paper - 42 x 50 cm



**Stories from the Outlands**  
**Junior Oliphant**  
 Acrylic on cardboard - 30 x 42 cm

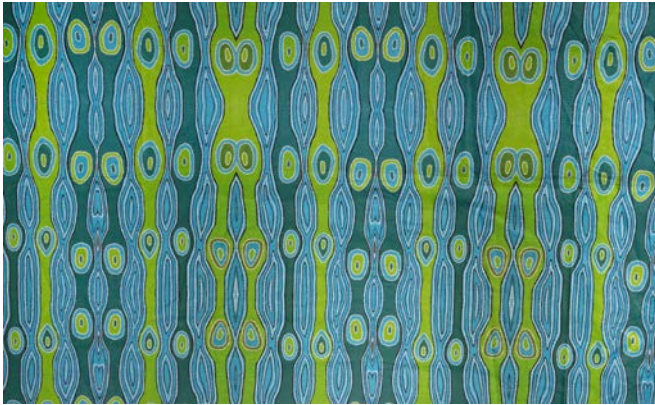


**Trance Dance**  
**Cherman Dollies**  
 Acrylic on paper - 30 x 42 cm

Our people the Khoe and the San used to dance when people were sick and communicate with the stars. We made music with stones and left art on the rocks that has lasted thousands of years. I'm an 18-year-old recent Grade 12 graduate from Victoria West in the Karoo. I do portraits for my people in my free time. I started my journey when I was seven years old, always wanting to draw something. That's when I realised my passion was art .



## Cotton Eggs and Pears



**Emu Eggs Nesting**  
**Mauretta Drage**

Printed Cotton - 4 x 1.2 m

Emu eggs are collected and eaten by the people of Australia. The eggs are found on nests of twigs and branches, hidden inside thick bush. The eggshells are a beautiful blue-green colour and give many shades, all the way to white, when carved to make artwork.



**Woody Pears**  
**Mauretta Drage**

Printed Cotton - 4 x 1.2 m

The Woody Pear is an important bush food for the Nhanda and Wajarri people in the Mid-West region of Western Australia.

The oval shapes in this work show the Woody Pear with its oblong leaves. The fruit is gathered and eaten when it's green, in the spring. As it dries and goes brown, the woody pear drops its seeds. The leaves, seeds and fruit are seen in this artwork.

### **Mauretta Drage**

I am a proud Nhanda-Wajarri woman who grew up in Mooniemia (Northampton) in Western Australia where I was taught to paint by Nana Olive Boddington. I am a youth supervisor who teaches wood burning, painting and print making and help run cultural camps. My works are inspired by my time spent along the Murchison River, listening to family stories and rediscovering bush foods on Country. I am a founding artist of Ku'arlu Mangga.



## The |Xau of Now

In the extinct /Xam language of the Bushman people, |XAU means to go on a magical expedition or shoot with a magical arrow. In international trading, XAU is also the currency symbol for gold. Tumbling around in the maelstrom of the modern world, in search of what we have lost, we need to find those magical arrows. We need to find The |Xau of Now to restore our relationship with the earth and sky and the divine within. Only then will we begin to heal what has been destroyed without and within.



**//Kabbo The Visionary**  
**Pierre Cloete**

Acrylic on canvas - 160 x 150 cm

He had a vision that he could save his people. And so in 1870, //Kabbo /Uhidoro Jantjie Tooren, a pipe-smoking revolutionary Bushman hunter driven by his need to safeguard his fragile culture walked for hundreds of miles. With his land stolen, his people under attack and his language threatened, he went on a Quest to save the people's most valuable possession, their stories.

He saw in a dream that he would find experts who could preserve his precious knowledge in books. The result is an archive recorded over a thousand days and nights and entered into the *UNESCO Memory of the World Register*.



**Children of the San XI: My Ma Se Taal**  
**Junior Oliphant**

Acrylic on canvas - 150 x 150 cm

Dr Katrina Esau is an icon of the Northern Cape. The last remaining speaker of the First Nations N/uu language. The Karoo is a nature reserve for star gazers. My painting preserves the legacy of Ouma Katrina and celebrates her vision. A language has a whole culture embedded in it. The SKA technology is in search of the messages written in the stars while we are losing our languages that were repositories of riches the scientists wish to explore.



**The |Xau of Now**  
**Terence Visagie**

Acrylic on canvas - 150 x 150 cm

## Return of the Moon //Kabbo's Lament

I sit waiting for the moon to turn back for me  
That I may listen to all the people  
That I may listen to all the stories  
Listen to the stories of the Plains' People  
Stories from our place and beyond  
Stories that float and roam  
There are those who tell and those who listen  
While Xoe-ssho-kui the Sun grows warm  
That I may sit in the sun That I may sitting listen  
Stories that from yonder come  
I shall catch a story when from afar it floats past  
I shall visit my fellow men while the sun warms us

All around me people of other places  
They do not possess my stories  
They do not talk my language  
They visit their own people  
They are work's people  
They work to keep order  
They work to grow food  
We the people of the Plains visit each other's huts  
That we may smoking sit  
We are smoking's people catching the stories  
That come like the wind  
I am listening with all my ears  
when it seems that I sit silent  
I must wait listening behind me  
Waiting for my story to come  
Listening all along the road where my name floats  
My three names float along to my place  
Han-i-i, Uhi-ddoro, //Kabbo

My place this is not  
I was brought to this place  
To work for a while  
but my place is calling  
My name is waiting behind the mountain  
For my return  
I should reach my place when the trees are dry  
I shall walk letting the flowers become dry  
While I follow the path

My place is Gubo  
I belong to Khui-tteng and to Xau-ka-khoa  
I possessed Xuobbeten, the water pool  
Belonging I went along  
I possessed Unn  
I dug a hole at Ka-ttu

I sit waiting for the moon to turn back for me  
I await the return of the moon  
That the moon may go round  
That I may go home

Folkloric Poetry contained in the Bleek-Lloyd Archive that has been entered into the *Unesco Memory of the World Register*.  
The informants are /Xam people from the Northern Cape mainly //Kabbo, /Han ≠ Kasso, !Kweiten ta ||ken Rachel and Dia!Kwain.

## Cosmic Sisterhood

The Feminine Divine is a prominent aspect of ancient spirituality worldwide. Women are seen as central figures in the spiritual and natural order. These female artists tap into the essence of star stories.



**Seven Sisters**

**Susan Merry**

Acrylic on canvas - 77 x 76 cm

Seven sisters shining bright in the dark sky. The six around the outside are always protecting the one in the middle from the hunter who wants to kill it because it is sick.



**Seven Sisters**

**Dawn Hamlett**

Acrylic on canvas - 65 x 110 cm

The Wajarri Yamaji have an affinity to the sky at night. The Seven Sisters is a story of seven sisters being pursued over our vast Country and sky by an Ancestral being disguised as man.





**Seven Sisters**  
**Dawn Hamlett**

Acrylic on canvas - 73 x 56 cm

The Wajarri Yamaji have an affinity to the sky at night. The Seven Sisters is a story of sisters being pursued over our vast Country and sky by an Ancestral being disguised as man.



**The Evening Star**  
**Leeann Kelly-Pedersen**

Acrylic on canvas - 118 x 87 cm

This painting is about the evening star, Venus, that shines bright in the sky at night. The evening star is also known as the morning star and you can see it clearly early in the morning.

The evening star guided our Ancestors who would travel at night. It was used like a compass to let our Ancestors know what direction they wanted to travel. Travelling at night on foot is what our Ancestors did when the weather was hot.

Our Ancestors travelled at night and used the evening star and the moon as a guide for directions.



**Look Out**  
**Gail Rose Simpson**

Acrylic on canvas - 122 x 200 cm

Planets and moons with connecting lines making them one. Far away mystery places something calls home. We see the Emu in the sky when it is egg-laying season. There are different layers that we think we can see when looking out to space. Telescopes on Wajarri land. The phases of the eclipse and falling stars.

## The Performance Artists

My name is Ashwaan Moolman. I'm 18 years old and a Grade 11 learner at Carnarvon High School. I am a rugby player and the Chairperson as well as a Spiritual Leader at our Youth Group. I love writing and acting. I am inspired by the arts and that is the reason why I'm motivated.

My name is Katelin Kiewido. I'm a 17-year-old Grade 10 learner at Carnarvon High School. I am a Spiritual Dancer. I love acting and I've learned so much by doing it.

My name is Allishé Malgas and I'm a Grade 9 learner at Carnarvon High School. I'm a very talkative person and love reading poetry in my free time. I play netball as a sport. Art plays a big part in my life. I have learnt that everything in life is always a learning process, and that's what motivates me each and every day.

My name is Jadenique Kordom. I'm 14 years old. I'm a grade 9 learner at Carnarvon High School. I love acting. I want to be an actress one day and I am a very talkative person.

My name is Jonbernay Kampher. I'm a 17-year-old Grade 11 student at Carnarvon High School. I'm a Karoo born girl who loves being outdoors. I also love dancing and acting. I am a free-spirited person who likes challenges, especially solving them.

My name is Chevarney Tieties. I'm a Grade 11 learner and I'm 17 years old. I'm a young energetic girl that loves to dance as well as play netball. I love being outdoors and enjoy being in nature.

My name is Neydrian Majiedt. I'm a Grade 11 learner at Carnarvon High School. I'm 16 years old. I love acting and I play for a soccer club in our town. I like to be challenged.

I am Breyton Dakens, a Carnarvon resident. I am 22 years old and I matriculated from Carnarvon High School in 2022. In our town I am known as an Afrikaans Rap Artist. I love Afrikaans Hip Hop music, writing poetry, creative writing and acting. I'm very talkative and love communicating and doing things.

## Ashes of hope Skiet Die Bok in die Wild

Short Film

Duration: 6 mins

A modern interpretation of the ancient folkloric story of *The Girl Who Made the Milky Way* by throwing glowing embers of wood ash into the sky. Devised, written and performed by the Youth participants of the Carnarvon Cosmic Echoes Arts Workshop.

## Cosmic Echoes Arts Workshop

Short Film

Duration: 9 mins

Artist Facilitators used innovative Theatre in Education principles to provide a 'cognitive playground'. Young people experimented with different choices and experienced the outcomes of their own and other's behaviour in a safe, fun environment, arriving at a fresh understanding of crucial issues of Culture, Heritage and Identity.

## Canopus

Short Film

Duration: 2 mins

Poet Jolyn Phillips implores the star Canopus for help with finding herself in a strange tongue.



## Credits

Sylvia Vollenhoven  
Lukretia Booysen  
Terence Visagie  
Basil Appollis

Curator | Filmmaker | Arts Workshop Facilitator  
Indigenous Curator  
Featured Artist | Arts Workshop Facilitator  
Director | Arts Workshop Facilitator

### Australian artists

Carleen Dingo  
Mauretta Drage  
Godfrena Gilla  
Dawn Hamlett  
Gail Rose Simpson

Noeleen Hamlett  
Vanessa Kelly  
Leeann Kelly-Pedersen  
Susan Merry

### South African artists

Pierre Cloete  
Garth Erasmus

Junior Oliphant  
Hendreas Vaalbooi

### Northern Cape youth


Breyton Dakens  
Cherman Dollies  
Je-Dewaan Jann  
Jonbernay Kampher  
Katelin Kiewido  
Jadenique Kordom  
Neydrian Majiedt

Alishé Malgas  
Ashwaan Moolman  
Tylor Mouers  
Shirdio Saaiman  
Chevarney Tieties  
Brayton Vyver

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SKAO  
SKAO  
SKAO  
CSIRO  
Shared Sky Curator  
Wajarri Yamaji Aboriginal Corporation  
SARAO





# COSMIC ECHOES

SHARED SKY INDIGENOUS ART EXHIBITION



## 5-15 AUGUST

CAPE TOWN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

