

LAKAPAWA PALAWA NIPALUNA-TI



A guide to Tasmanian Aboriginal
public art in nipaluna/Hobart

Blak Led Tours Tasmania
www.blackledtours.com

ABOUT

Blak Led Tours Tasmania is an independent Tasmanian Aboriginal tourism business established in 2022. We focus on truth-telling and the representation of Tasmanian Aboriginal stories through the delivery of guided tours and story-telling projects in nipaluna /Hobart and beyond.

Our purpose is to bring Aboriginal stories to the forefront of the consciousness and visitor experience in lutruwita/Tasmania and ensure that our people's stories become visible in public spaces across the island.

We've been lucky to share our history and culture with thousands of guests every year since we launched. But we aren't the only ones working to make our culture and stories visible in public space.

In fact there are number of artworks by Tasmanian Aboriginal people that you can see every day throughout the city of nipaluna / Hobart.

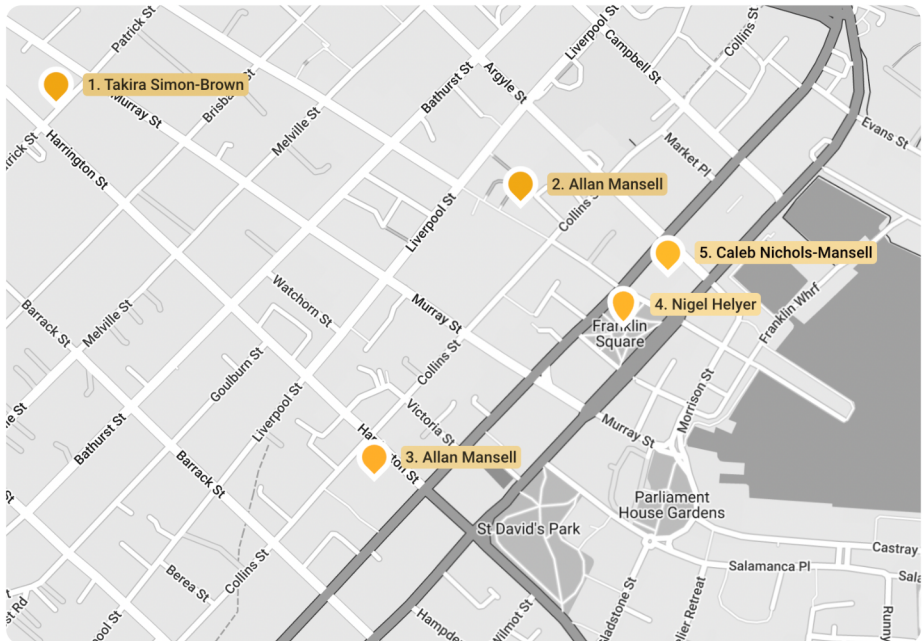
This booklet provides yet another way to connect to our people's stories here in nipaluna. To encourage you to notice the stories held by these city streets and give you an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of these artworks and the artists who created them.

In this booklet you have a map and directions to the artworks as well as information about the artworks you encounter and the stories behind the pieces.

ARTWORK LOCATIONS

1. *Takira Simon-Brown*, Mural at Aboriginal Health Service: 96 Patrick Street, Hobart.
2. Allan Mansell, *Stepping Forward*, Hobart CBD Banners
3. Allan Mansell, *Reaching Out*, 188 Collins Street, Hobart
4. Nigel Helyer, *Two Islands*, 70 Macquarie Street, Hobart
5. Caleb Nichols-Mansell, *I AM COUNTRY*, Town Hall: 50 Macquarie Street, Hobart

MAP



1. TAKIRA SIMON BROWN

Mural at Aboriginal Health Service, 96 Patrick Street, Hobart





ARTIST BIO

Takira Simon-Brown is a Niyanta of Chief Mannalargenna of the Plangermairreenner Nation (Ben Lomond) and a luna of Paredareme Country where the Moomairemenner community once resided.

Takira's art practice includes music, film and performance, painting and printmaking.

She comes from a strong line of Aboriginal makers – her grandmother and mother, both shell stringers, have necklaces in the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery Collection, and her family includes other arts practitioners and educators.

ARTIST STATEMENT

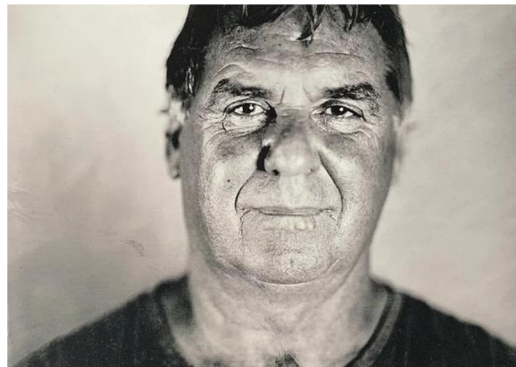
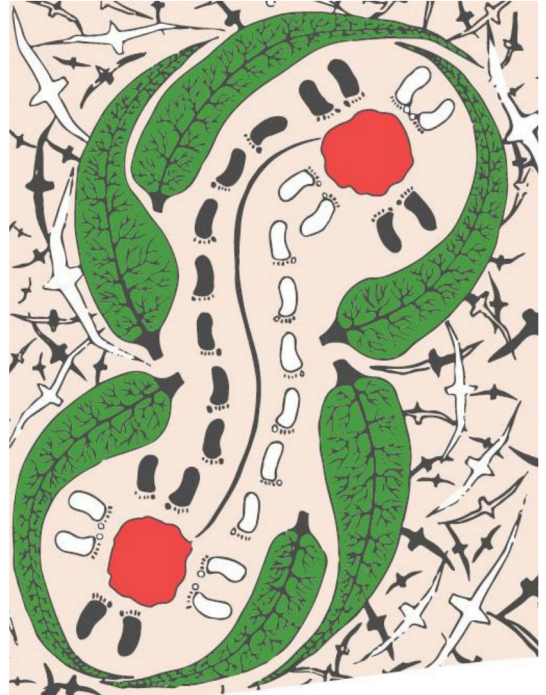
“I attended Allan Mansell's workshop at Risdon Cove and created that design from the Sheoak that Jamie Everett used to talk about in his plant tours at Risdon Cove.

The design represents the different ages of the plants growth through colours.

This tree resides on the First Invasion ground in Lutruwita. Second invasion ground in Australia.”

2. ALLAN MANSELL

Stepping Forward
Hobart City CBD Banners



ARTIST BIO

Allan Mansell is a celebrated Tasmanian Aboriginal Artist and hails directly from the survivors of the British invasion, who had inhabited the island of the Furneaux Group in Bass Strait, Tasmania.

His family were the last of the Indigenous Nomadic Groups who traversed Tasmania from one end to the other in search of work and food. He was later taken by the authorities and became part of the stolen generation.

Allan had many varied jobs, including many years as a carpenter. He spent some years on fishing boats around the West Coast of Tasmania and then worked for Parks and Wildlife for over 10 years, improving and protecting much of the wilderness around the state.

Allan later settled on Bruny Island, where his mother was taken to as a child from Cape Barren Island. It was here that he built a home out of the bush and then went on to attend The University of Tasmania undertaking a four year Fine Arts Degree.

Today, Allan shares Aboriginal culture through his passion for art - teaching print making and Cultural Understandings at local schools, festivals and with community groups around Tasmania.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Stepping Forward This image/ print encompasses many virtuous themes including truth telling, commitment and courage. Yula (short-tailed shearwater), represents freedom surrounding the image. It is encompassing the freedom to come together, to tell the truth and have the courage to do so. Yula is a traditional Tasmanian Aboriginal food and in this image also it is the sharing of food, showing acceptance of the clans (black and white). The gum leaves represent a life force, including shelter, tool making and fuel for fires and the veins represent the gum trees themselves.

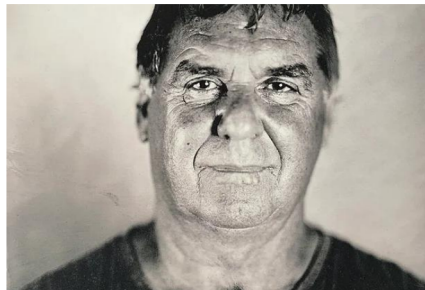
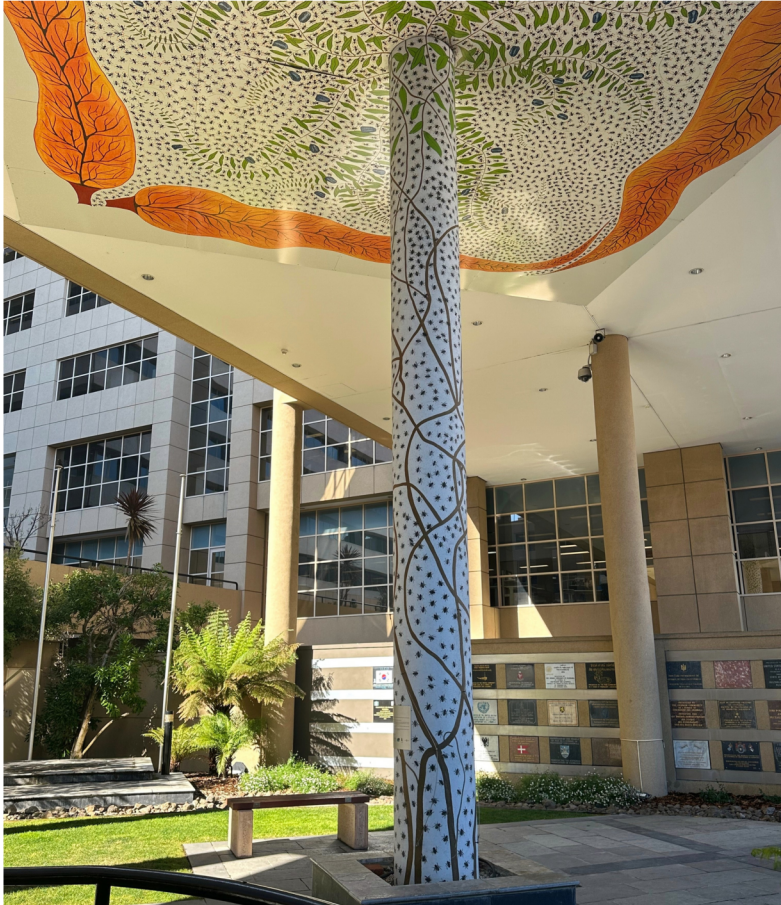
The black and white footprints come together along different paths but meet up around the fire to share the food, sharing of warmth, the telling of truth, which is welcoming, revealing the commitment to be there. The black feet represent the Aboriginal people. The white feet represent the white community, the red represents the campfires, the four sets of feet around the campfires symbolising the coming together of two nations. The black line is the time line, the Aboriginal people on their journey, and then on the other side of the black line, the white community on their journey and then meet at the fire of reconciliation.


This artwork was commissioned by the City of Hobart for their inaugural Aboriginal Commitment and Action plan and can be seen on banners hung throughout the city streets.

3. ALLAN MANSELL

Reaching Out

188 Collins Street, Hobart, 7000





Reaching Out

188 Collins Street, Hobart, 7000

The International Wall of Friendship was built to bring all of Tasmania's communities closer together and to provide a tribute of the contribution that migrant communities have made to the state's development. The wall contains a series of plaques representing migrant communities.

This work is a mural by Allan Mansell entitled "Reaching Out".

Artist Statement:

Reaching Out is a greeting from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community that creates a "welcome sky" for the International Wall of Friendship. The symbolic relationship between Tasmania's natural environment and its people is the central theme of the artwork. The mural depicts a malher berry (climbing blueberry) that entwined through the design. It grows and seeks new areas to establish itself in much the same way that migrants seek to build a solid foundation for a new beginning. The eight stems on the plant represent directional points on a compass that point to regional areas of Tasmania and the seedpods symbolise the more populated cities and towns.

The ants, tietta, commonly known as Jack Jumpers represent Tasmania's diverse population. They appear similar, but are each individual as they travel different paths to collect resources and return home to build a stronger community. The loatta poruttye (gum leaves) are a species unique to Tasmania. The four leaves surrounding the design depict Tasmania as an island. They also represent the four seasons that are so much a part of living in Tasmania. The central pillar links the elements of nature from the earth to the sky. Tasmanian Aboriginal words are from the Oyster Bay and North-East Tribal regions.

4. NIGEL HELYER

Two Islands
Franklin Square



ARTIST BIO

Dr. Nigel Helyer; an internationally prominent sculptor and sound artist is a contemporary polymath who's interdisciplinary practice combines art and science to embrace our social, cultural and physical environments. He brings these concerns together in creative projects that prompt the community to engage with their cultural histories, identity and sense of place; inviting us to examine the abstract conditions of our world and our complex relationships to it.

CONTRIBUTORS

Local Tasmanian Aboriginal man and Senior curator of First peoples and culture at TMAG, Tony Brown, worked with Nigel Helyer to develop the design of the canoe for the artwork and to draw together a group of contributors for the soundscape within the work.

Brendan Brown (Buck), Teangi Brown, Tony Brown, Richard Flanagan, David Gough, Julie Gough, Rodney Gibbins, Hank Horton, Ruth Langford, Greg Lehman, Brendan Lennard, Jillian Mundy, and members of muka nawnta (Jodi Haines, Kartanya Maynard, Merinda Sainty, Jude Reid, Theresa Sainty).

ARTIST STATEMENT

The Two Islands sculpture presents a metaphor that draws together histories of Tasmanian Aboriginal and European settler cultures in the form of two symbolic vessels.

The skeleton of Sir John Franklin's ship the HMS Erebus lies wrecked alongside a contemporary representation of a traditional Tasmanian Aboriginal canoe, creating a tension that resonates with the complex histories of Tasmania.

Two Islands incorporates a soundscape comprised of many voices and perspectives offering us potential to reflect upon the past to continue a dialogue of reconciliation into the future.

At the time of installation, the soundscape included perspectives and reflections from:

refers to the wreck and loss of the Erebus, a tragic and unresolved history that might also serve as a metaphor for the decline of British imperial power, and perhaps even the uncertain future of Western technological culture (bearing in mind the growing threat from human-induced climate change and broader questions about sustainability of consumerist, commodity based economies)."

"The canoe, by contrast, is whole and complete – communicating a quiet and confident beauty. It still rests within the presence of the wreckage, but has the potential to journey forth through the same access point that visitors use to enter the structure. I see this as a generous acknowledgement of not only the unbroken continuation Tasmanian Aboriginal culture – in spite of colonial domination of the past – but also the vitality that has been demonstrated by the reemergence of canoe building in recent years."

5. CALEB NICHOLS-MANSELL

I AM COUNTRY
Hobart Town Hall,





ARTIST BIO

Caleb Nichols-Mansell is an early career mixed media visual artist and the Founder of Blackspace Creative Arts and Cultural Hub. He is a proud Tasmanian Aboriginal man with deep connections to country, community, culture, and spirit which all inform his practice and process as an artist and leader.

Caleb has an extensive portfolio in graphic design and digital art and has been commissioned by several leading institutes and organisations both within the state and nationally. Stepping outside of his comfort zone, he is beginning to experiment with large scale festival and public art installations as well as site responsive works which have been commissioned by Dark Mofo and Junction Arts Festival.

Delving into and shining light on the politics of identity, land, and cultural heritage his artwork aims to generate conversation and evoke deep thinking whilst providing viewers with an intimate look at what it means to be Tasmanian Aboriginal man in modern day Tasmania.

ARTIST STATEMENT

This work invites the public to contemplate their own connection to Country whilst providing space and opportunity for them to acknowledge the Country that they live and work on within the islands capital, nipaluna/Hobart.

I Am Country is an explorative written piece that encourages the reader to imagine the person as Country or Country as the person. It is a gentle and soft journey into the heart and spirit of indigeneity among Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

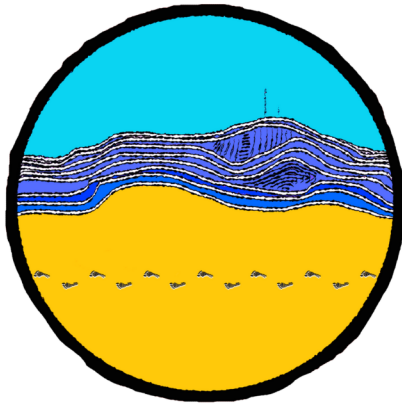
The artwork that sits aside the poem is inspired by the fresh water that carves through the city from the base of kunanyi/Mt Wellington and out to the salty waters of timtumili minunya/Derwent River.

Accompanying the work are plantings of native grasses and shrubs that will sit around the plaque.

This water carved through Country and existed long before the concrete structures that now enshroud it. The circular, vibrational pattern also alludes to the circular knowledge systems that exist within our culture and have sustained our practices for thousands and thousands of years. These knowledges reverberate through generations keeping culture strong.

BLAK LED TOURS TASMANIA

www.blackledtours.com



THE ARTISTS:

Takira Simon-Brown
Palawa Artz on Facebook

Allan Mansell
Black Ant arts
www.blackantarts.com

Nigel Helyer
www.sonicobjects.com

Caleb Nichols-Mansell
www.calebnicholsmansellcom.au