

START AT HOME #11



Tallara Gray, Gudang people, Queensland, born 1993, Ipswich, Queensland, *Set in time*, 2017, Frankston, Victoria, kelp, river reed, 60.0 x 20.0 x 2.0 cm; Courtesy the artist and Baluk Arts

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Tallara Gray is a Gudang artist who works with Baluk Arts, an urban Aboriginal art centre in Victoria. Her works of art are created using materials and objects found in the natural landscape of the Mornington Peninsula. Gray uses this collecting of natural materials as a way of connecting with her culture, her identity, and the Country she lives on.

ABOUT THE WORK

Gray uses kelp, collected from the beach, to create the dark swirling sections in her work of art *Set in time*. When found on the beach, the kelp doesn't grow anymore, so Gray works quickly with the wet kelp before it dries and begins to shrink and warp. During this process, Gray is aware that she is working with a living material that is dying. This brings a feeling of sadness to her work. The finished work of art represents her own views on life, mortality, and nature, as well as the importance of preserving culture.

LOOK-ALIKE KELP BELT

MATERIALS YOU NEED

- Cotton fabric
- Acrylic paint
- Paint brush
- Scissors
- Thin string or wool
- Needle (same thickness as the thread)
- Small wooden beads

BE INSPIRED

Tallara Gray's *Set in time* is on display in the TARNANTHI exhibition.

CREATE YOUR OWN WORK of ART

- 1 Start making your belt by painting a section of cotton fabric in your preferred colour. Be sure to place newspaper under the fabric so that the paint does not seep through. Paint one side and allow to dry before painting the other side.
- 2 Once your fabric has dried, you will notice that the fabric has become stiff, but flexible. Using a pair of scissors, cut the painted fabric into long strips 2–3 cm wide.
- 3 Ask an adult to help you thread the needle and tie a knot at the end. Thread a bead onto the string, and then thread one end of a fabric strip onto the needle.
- 4 Thread another bead onto the needle, and fold the fabric over the bead, threading it onto the needle again to make a C shape. Add another bead and fold and thread the fabric over again, making an S shape. Continue until all of the fabric is threaded onto the string and your belt measures around your waist. Tie the ends together.
- 5 Embellish your belt by creating smaller bead-and-fabric lengths and tie them so that they hang on the sides of your body.

FINISHED? We would love to see your work! Ask your parent or guardian to post a photo on Instagram and tag the Art Gallery of South Australia

 @artgalleryofsa #startatthegallery

Not on Instagram? No worries! Email your photo to us at public.programs@artgallery.sa.gov.au

TARNANTHI

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