

Saltbush Country



ART GALLERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

I've crisscrossed the regions of South Australia talking with First Nations artists. I've come to see the deep connections that these women have with the land they live on. I've had the privilege of listening to their stories and watching first-hand as their works come to life to become part of the exhibition.

Marika Davies

About the Artists/Exhibition

Saltbush Country presents the work of seven artists sharing their unique experiences of culture, community, and connection to Country. Curator, Marika Davies, has travelled far and wide, through the mid-north and central west coast regions of South Australia to meet each of the exhibiting artists. Supporting and nurturing the process of bringing the work to life and telling the stories of Saltbush Country.

Central to the project has been time and conversation. Making space for these yarns to take place on Country, in the homes, and gardens, of the artists where they can speak most openly.

About the work

As connected as the artists are, they are diverse. Working in an array of mediums from painting to textiles, sculpture and wearable art. Some artists revive ancient processes, while others work with mentors to develop new ways of sharing their stories.

Often the work is created at the kitchen table, or outdoors. These artists are adaptable and not reliant on studios. This makes the work even more accessible and visible to those within the home; family, friends, visitors. Art becomes part of the everyday and it creates opportunities for generations to come together, ask questions, and learn by just being together.

The following activities could be completed in the classroom, or at the kitchen table.

Presented by

AGSA

tarnanthi

BHP



**COUNTRY
ARTS
SA**



image Deanne Newchurch and Lynette Newchurch, Point Pearce, South Australia, 2023 photo: Sam Roberts

It is only appropriate for me to dedicate this experience to both my Nanas, Nana Margaret Lindquist and Suzannah Fly (both deceased), as they are represented by the thistle of Scotland and the golden grevillea of Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Northern Territory.

Heather Shearer

Activity One

Family Favourites

The final works in the exhibition are the outcome of many hours of thinking, planning, yarning, and making. Like learning a family recipe with your Aunty, the memories you share and make while baking the cake can be as precious as the meal.

- 1 What is your favourite family recipe to enjoy at family gatherings?
- 2 Ask the person who usually makes this dish for the recipe. Preferably spend time with that person to write it down, or even make it together. If this is not possible, try and recall the flavours and ingredients yourself.
- 3 Using simple imagery and shapes illustrate the recipe.
- 4 You could do this using pencil, crayon, collage, ink, or watercolour paint.

Materials

- Paper
- Drawing materials (pencils, crayon, watercolour, ink)
- Scissors
- Glue

Extension

Scan your illustrations to create a class recipe book. Add a title and short written memory to accompany the image.
For example: Grandma Ruth's Pavlova.
Everyone else prefers it with strawberries, but I love it with mango.

Activity Two

Botanical Bling

Saltbush is a hardy plant that grows and adapts to its environment. People and environment are inherently linked, as evident in a lot of the work in *Saltbush Country*. In caring for Country we care for one another and for the future of our land and people. Celebrate the beauty of our natural world and elevate your outfit with some Botanical Bling!

- 1 Heather Shearer has dedicated her embroidery works to her Nanas – Research the plants that grow in your local environment, or a plant that is of particular significance to your family. Investigate the origins of the plant and how it came to be growing in that location.
- 2 Draw the outline of the leaf, flower, or pod of your chosen plant onto card or fabric. Cut around the shape, it should be approximately 2-5 cm in size. Use this piece as a stencil and trace around it 5-20 times and cut out.
- 3 Pierce a small hole in the top of each shape and thread onto a piece of yarn. Space out by tying knots between each piece. Tie the ends of the yarn together to create a wearable necklace.
- 4 Add detail by stitching into the fabric shapes or using coloured pencils or pens on the card.

Materials

- Yarn (wool, string, cotton)
- Scrap fabric
- Cardboard
- Sewing needles
- Scissors
- Pens, pencils

We would love to see your work! Ask your parent or carer to post a photo on Instagram and tag the Art Gallery of South Australia. Or you can email your photo to us at public.programs@artgallery.sa.gov.au

@agsa.adelaide #agsastart