

THE AUSTRALIAN TAPESTRY WORKSHOP (ATW)

Established in 1976, the ATW is an international centre of excellence, dedicated to creating contemporary tapestries in cross-disciplinary creative partnerships.

All ATW tapestries are woven in-house by our highly skilled weavers, produced in accordance with our uncompromising standards of craftsmanship and are unique original artworks.

WHY TAPESTRY

As an artform, tapestry serves a dual purpose, as a decorative large scale artwork and as a functional addition to architecture.

It is an accessible form of public art that resonates with all members of the community, regardless of age, cultural background or education. Tapestries provide connection, calm, contemplation and joy in their vibrancy, beauty and rich cultural meanings.

The ATW produces tapestries known for their vibrancy, technical accomplishment and inventive interpretation. With care, fine tapestries can maintain their sensual richness and warmth, long outlasting many other artforms.

We use the finest Australian wool, dyed on site in our bespoke Dye Lab, providing limitless interpretive possibilities.

The ATW acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work, the Wurundjeri and Bunurong people of the Greater Kulin Nation. We pay our respect to their Elders, past and present.

AUSTRALIAN
TAPESTRY
WORKSHOP

COMMISSIONING A TAPESTRY

PHOTO: MARIE LUISE SKIBBE



EMBASSY TAPESTRY COLLECTION

The *Embassy Tapestry Collection* is an innovative cultural program that places large-scale Australian-made tapestries designed by First Nations artists on loan to selected overseas embassies.

The diverse images are distinctly Australian and accessible to international audiences. The tapestries celebrate First Nations artists, Australian weaving expertise and Australian wool.

These tapestries are a reflection of our rich collaboration between the artists and the master weavers at the ATW as an international leader in the production of hand-woven tapestries.

Supported by private donations, corporate sponsors, government funding and the Tapestry Foundation of Australia. The *Embassy Tapestry Collection* commenced in 2004 and to date ten tapestries have been created.

EMBASSY TAPESTRIES

Tapestries in this collection are found in Australian Embassies in:

Dublin | Japan | Jakarta | Singapore | Holy See | Rome | Paris | Washington DC | New Delhi
| Beijing | Tokyo

TAPESTRY COLLABORATORS

The ATW has worked with significant First Nations artists throughout this project including:

Naomi Hobson (Kaantju/Umpila) | Brook Andrews (Wiradjuri) | Patrick Mung Mung (Gija) |
Trevor Nickolls (Ngarrindjeri) | Elizabeth Marks Nakamarra (Walungurru)
| Nyankulya Watson (Pitjantatjara)



PHOTO: JEREMY WEIHAUCH

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM

Each year, the ATW offers artists and craftspeople working in any medium and at any stage of their career, the chance to broaden their practice through our world-renowned residency program.

Artists are invited to work in our vibrant studio space, exchange knowledge and technical experience with our team of tapestry weavers and engage with the local community through public programs and exhibitions.

As part of our ongoing commitment to celebrate and support opportunities for First Nations artists, a designated place in our program is held for an artist identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

PAST AIRS

Kait James (Wadawurrung) | Donna Blackall (Yorta Yorta) | Lee Daroch (Yorta Yorta, Mutti Mutti and Boon Wurrung).

MAJOR TAPESTRIES

The ATW frequently collaborates with First Nations artists for tapestries held in public and private collections including:

Ilpili designed by Kunmanara Carroll (2021) | *I screamed aloud (I will survive)* designed by Hayley Millar-Baker (Gunditjmara) | *Wurundjeri Biik, yalinguth, yalingbu yirramboi* designed by Mandy Nicholson (2020) | *Bush Foods* designed by Sheena Wilfred (2015) | *Point Addis* designed by Angela Brennan (2013).



PHOTO: MARIE LUISE SKIBBE

CURTAIN CALL

TAPESTRIES IN PERFORMING ARTS CENTRES

We are honoured that a significant number of notable tapestries hang in major performing arts centres both in Australia and overseas including in the Sydney Opera House, Arts Centre Melbourne, Melbourne Recital Centre, Aotea Centre (Auckland), and Esplanade Theatres on the Bay (Singapore).

The Arts Centre Melbourne is home to three impressive Indigenous tapestries: The *Winparrku Serpents* (1978) where the spirit of tribal life is captured by Kaapa Djambidjumba, *Snake and Water Dreaming* (1979) designed by Yala Gibbs Tjungurrayi, and Charlie Tarawa Tjungurrayi's *Tingari Dreaming at Mitukatjirri* (1981). It also displays a suite of fine tapestries by Melbourne artist Mary McQueen - a translation of four of her lyrical watercolours.

The Melbourne Recital Centre's vibrant tapestry *Dulka Warngiid (A Land of All)* - an interpretation of a painting by seven Aboriginal women from Bentick Island at the Gulf of Carpentaria - was commissioned by the Hugh DT Williamson Foundation and launched to celebrate the 100th birthday of Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, the Patron of both the ATW and Melbourne Recital Centre, at the opening of the Melbourne Recital Centre.

In 2000, Jørn Utzon, the Danish architect of Australia's most distinctive national icon, the Sydney Opera House, was commissioned to oversee a redevelopment of the Opera House's interior design including the Utzon Room, which now features a grand and dynamic tapestry of his design, *Homage to Carl Emmanuel Bach*, inspired by CPE Bach's Hamburg Symphonies as well as Raphael's painting *Procession to Calvary*.

In Auckland's Aotea Centre hangs *The Aotea Tapestry* designed by New Zealand artist Robert Ellis. Hanging from levels 2-4 of the Centre, *The Aotea Tapestry* measures almost 12 meters in length and took ATW weavers nearly two years to complete.

Last but not least, the tapestry *Celebration* designed by Victorian artist David Larwill is housed within Singapore's extraordinary Esplanade Theatres on the Bay complex. This tapestry was jointly commissioned by the Victorian Arts Centre Trust and Arts Victoria as Victoria's official gift to mark the opening of the Esplanade Arts Centre.

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PHOTO: THE ATW

