

## AUSTRALIAN TAPESTRY WORKSHOP

# 'Welcome to Country - now you see me: seeing the invisible'

Designed by Maree Clarke and Mitch Mahoney

### Commissioned for the new Footscray Hospital

### Woven at the Australian Tapestry Workshop



The tapestry in production at the Australian Tapestry Workshop.



Australian Tapestry Workshop Weavers in March 2025.



Samples from the preliminary stages of weaving the tapestry.



Custom colours made specifically for this project in the ATW dye lab.

'Welcome to Country – now you see me: seeing the invisible' is a tapestry commission supported by The Premier's Suite partnership for the new Footscray Hospital. The Premier's Suite is a partnership between the Tapestry Foundation of Australia, the State Government of Victoria and the Australian Hotels Association to fund the production of major tapestry commissions that are gifted to new Victorian hospitals.

The new Footscray Hospital tapestry is a collaboration between Plenary Health, the official arts partner for the new hospital, Footscray Community Arts, the Australian Tapestry Workshop, and the Tapestry Foundation of Australia, in collaboration with the Victorian Health Building Authority and Western Health.

'Welcome to Country - now you see me: seeing the invisible', designed by renowned artists Maree Clarke (Yorta Yorta/Wamba Wamba/Mutti Mutti/Boonwurrung) and Mitch Mahoney (Boonwurrung/Barkindji). The design is inspired by microscopic images of river reeds from the Maribyrnong River.

Clarke and Mahoney's artwork will be transformed into a three-dimensional tapestry spanning 4.2 x 10 metres, making it one of the largest tapestries ever produced for a public hospital in Victoria. The tapestry is also one of the largest ever produced at the ATW and the only tapestry ever woven at the ATW to be suspended in an ellipse installation.

### ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Maree Clarke is a Yorta Yorta/Wamba Wamba/Mutti Mutti/Boonwurrung woman who is a pivotal figure in the reclamation of southeast Australian Aboriginal art practices, reviving elements of Aboriginal culture that were lost - or lying dormant - over the period of colonisation as well as a leader in nurturing and promoting the diversity of contemporary southeast Aboriginal artists. She is represented by Vivien Anderson Gallery.

Mitch Mahoney is a proud Boon Wurrung artist and cultural educator who consults at Bunjilaka Melbourne Museum, Science Gallery and Footscray Arts Centre. Mitch regularly collaborates with his Aunt, Maree Clarke. Together they have produced significant commissions for the NGV and the Metro Tunnel Project. Mitch is focused on Indigenous Bio-Design in his practice with projects including The Biodegradable Eel Trap and Seven Canoe's project.

### KEY FACTS

Size: 4.2 x 10m (42m<sup>2</sup>)

Start of weaving: April 2024

Weight: 135kgs

End of weaving: June 2025

Yarn colours: 103

Weavers: 12

Unique colours dyed: 8

Weaving hours: 10,000

### ABOUT THE ATW

The Australian Tapestry Workshop (ATW) is an international leader in contemporary tapestry, collaborating with a diverse range of international and Australian artists to produce exceptional handwoven works of art.

Established in 1976, we have created over 500 tapestries in creative collaborations for nearly 50 years, promoting innovation and excellence in tapestry weaving and textile art. Located in Melbourne, Australia, our open studio space, bespoke dye lab and galleries are a creative hub for engagement with tapestry, textiles and contemporary art.

For more information visit [www.austapestry.com.au](http://www.austapestry.com.au) or email us at [contact@austapestry.com.au](mailto:contact@austapestry.com.au)