



Artist statement

My name is Lyndy Delian. I am a Wauthorong woman and a founding member of ITAG, the ACT Indigenous Textile and Glass Artists Group. I began as a painter, snakes embodying power and creation, were characteristic. I regularly work with screen prints of bush flowers and birds and animals on Chinese silk dupion and vintage Japanese kimono silks. I also combine screen prints and painting, some of my themes, 'listen to the wind' and 'pathways' have become etchings and paintings on glass. Prints on paper—screen prints and lino cuts are old favourites, lithography and working with glass are new and photography is still being discovered as a process and art of drawing with light.

I am sorry I won't be at the opening of my exhibition 1200°, but I will be thinking of the people supporting me when the opening is taking place, and I thank them all. I think it is about 31° where I will be at the time, coordinating the painting of a women's safe house with women from Daguragu and Kalkaringi. Remember when Gough Whitlam poured soil into the hands of Vincent Lingiari? 'From little things big things grow'—into Interventions.

I am very grateful to PhotoAccess for this residency and the opportunity to focus on photography. All the staff have been very supportive, giving freely of their knowledge and expertise. Thanks to Barbie Robinson, Kerry Baylor, Ed Whalan and David Chalker for their guidance throughout my residency, and advice on the makeup of the exhibition and the setup of the artworks.

I would like to acknowledge the help and support given to so many Indigenous artists by the infamous cartoonist Neville O'Neil, ACT Indigenous Arts Officer and personally from encouragement in the painting room at Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service up to backing for this exciting residency—Thanks Nev!

My appreciation to the staff, tutors and glass workers of the Canberra Glassworks who dodged me and kept me safe as I weaved around the hot shop with my camera and went up and down in the lift. Especial thanks to Anne Jakle for taking time out of her busy schedule to open the exhibition.

My thanks to the participants in the classes for being so excited by their work they hardly noticed me. Without them, there would be very big holes in all the photos. Relationships, family and culture is my artwork. Choosing to photograph furnace fires, tools, melting glass, and the passion of these class members was too easy. I enjoyed making more connections between PhotoAccess, the Canberra Glassworks and the ACT Indigenous Strategic Arts Initiative with this exhibition.

The NAIDOC theme of Honouring Our Elders, Nurturing Our Youth is ably represented by the work of the Billabong Aboriginal Development Corporation and Kemarre Arts to present the Indigenous Strategic Arts Initiative in Canberra. With the support of artsACT and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board of the Australia Council, twelve months of exciting opportunities from hip hop dancing to ceramics, etching and photography have been made available by Canberra's Key Arts Organizations, with many wonderful outcomes, and some can be seen in these photographs.

I hope I have done justice to my teachers and to my subjects and may the work speak for itself.

Lyndy Delian

Introduction

Lyndy Delian is a remarkable artist in diverse media. A textile and glass artist, painter, writer and illustrator, she has now added photography to her creative repertoire. Lyndy is the second emerging Indigenous photographer supported by PhotoAccess with funding under the ACT component of the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy.

Lyndy's 2009 NAIDOC Week exhibition 1200° has its roots in a Canberra Glassworks residency shared with other Indigenous artists and supported under the ACT Indigenous Strategic Arts Initiative. The exhibition includes images made in the course of the residency, showing artists at work in the exciting and pressured creative environment of the Canberra Glassworks hotshop. Through her images we share the exhilaration these artists experience in the heat of the furnace and the intricate demands of shaping molten glass. We are privileged to also show examples of Lyndy Delian's work in glass, textile and paper prints and acrylics in this 2009 NAIDOC Week exhibition.

The diversity of Delian's practice and the dimensions of her creative achievements are amply demonstrated by the recent exhibitions, commissions and awards listed in her biography. But not listed are the 42 exhibitions she participated in from 1999 to 2006. Lyndy is one of the busiest artists practicing in Canberra today, a tribute to her creativity and inquisitiveness, and the inspiration she draws from her culture. She is represented in the collections of the National Museum of Australia, National Gallery of Australia, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra Institute of Technology, and other public and private collections in Australia and overseas.

Like the Canberra Glassworks, PhotoAccess is participating in the ACT Indigenous Strategic Arts Initiative, in our case with two photo based projects in cooperation with Billabong Aboriginal Development Corporation. These projects will culminate in a Huw Davies Gallery exhibition next year. We acknowledge the farsightedness of the ACT Government in supporting Indigenous artists and allowing us to play a part in sharing their culture and unique perspectives with visitors to the Manuka Arts Centre.

We thank Neville O'Neill, ACT Indigenous Arts Officer, artsACT and the ACT Cultural Council for their assistance with this four-year emerging Indigenous photographer program. Ed Whalan and Barbie Robinson provided technical and creative support for this year's project.

PhotoAccess is proud to present Lyndy Delian's 1200°, a 2009 NAIDOC Week exhibition, in the Huw Davies Gallery at the Manuka Arts Centre.

David Chalker

Director

Biography

Lyndy Delian was born in Melbourne in 1953. Her Aboriginal extended genealogy dates from the late nineteenth century, originating in Blacks Town, Dunolly, western Victoria and the surrounding district. She has seven children, is an accomplished artist and experienced curator, writer and poet. She has illustrations in two books, *Writing Us Mob*, 2000 and *Talking Ink from Ochre*, 2002, artworks on the covers of four publications by the Australian Institute for Health and Wellbeing in 2008 and 2009, their *Reconciliation Action Plan*, 2009, and on the cover of the 2007 *Indigenous Business Australia Annual Report*. Lyndy's work is in public and private collections in Australia and overseas.

Selected recent exhibitions

2009

1200°, 2009 NAIDOC Week exhibition, HUW DAVIES GALLERY, PhotoAccess, ACT (solo exhibition); *Cotter Heritage Story*, Canberra Glassworks; *Three In A Row*, The Front Gallery; *Metre by a Metre*, Watson Gallery; *Women's Journeys* by ITAG, ACT Multicultural Centre

2008

IndigiGlass '08, Tuggeranong Arts Centre Gallery; *Vintage Black*, ANCA Gallery, Dickson; *Heartland* by ITAG, Megalo Print Studio & Gallery; *Selected Kimonos, Obis, Garments*, Canberra Show Fashion Parade

2007

Impatye—Our Belonging Tracks by ITAG, Belconnen Gallery; *Away* by ITAG, Megalo Print Studio & Gallery; *Skinworks* by ITAG, Strathnairn Gallery; *NAIDOC Week*, Medicare Australia, Tuggeranong, ACT; Marsden Art Group, Watson Gallery

Selected recent commissions

2009

International Women's Day Awards, 4 painted glass plates by ITAG, one piece by L Delian, ACT Office of Women, Corporate Gifts, Indigenous Community Volunteers

2008

Postcards from the Referendum, National Museum of Australia, 7 group works, 5 individual works, glass, screen printed textiles by L Delian; Winnunga Nimmityja AHS, New Mothers Health Book Launch, 40 screen printed book-bags, screen prints by ITAG, designed and printed by L Delian

2006

Black Madonna, screen printed collaborative work, designed L Delian, Maternity Ward, Canberra Hospital; National Indigenous Excellence in Health Awards, 30 screen printed presentation silk shawls, DHA; Narragunnawali, ATSIH, ACT corporate image artwork with Jennifer Martiniello, 3 canvas panels

2005

Fabric, paper screen prints, paintings, Corporate, National and International Conference Gifts, Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT); National Indigenous Forestry Strategy, 9 panels, screen prints and hand painting on canvas, with Jennifer Martiniello

2003

Journeys Mural, Parliamentary Triangle, ESL, CIT Reid; *National Indigenous Consultation Manual*, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, 7 acrylic paintings on canvas

Awards

Northern Territory Fashion Awards 2003, Winner Textiles Category, *Sunset in Gorge Country*, 3 metre screen printed fabric, with Danusha Cubillo and Ambrose Bin-Juda; designed and printed by L Delian

Residencies

2009

Canberra Glassworks, Cotter Exhibition Project; PhotoAccess, Emerging Indigenous Photographer and NAIDOC Week exhibition project; Canberra Glassworks, ongoing glass project, with Indigenous Arts Initiative ATSIAB (Australia Council) (in progress); Canberra Glassworks, ongoing glass project, with ITAG/artsACT (in progress)

2008

Canberra Glassworks, Introductory Glass, with ITAG/artsACT



1200°



photoaccess
at the Manuka Arts Centre

An ACT Government Arts Facility

www.photoaccess.org.au
Manuka Arts Centre
Manuka Circle
Griffith ACT 2603



supported by the ACT & Commonwealth Governments

Lyndy Delian

12 — 29 March 2009

HUW DAVIES GALLERY

photoaccess
at the Manuka Arts Centre