

HUW DAVIES GALLERY 5–22 July 2007

<i>River</i>		Jenni Kemarre Martiniello
<i>Wiradjuri Echoes</i>		Duncan Smith
<i>Telling My Story</i>		Renee Smith

River by Jenni Kemarre Martiniello, *Wiradjuri Echoes* by Duncan Smith and *Telling My Story* by Renee Smith is the second NAIDOC Week exhibition in a PhotoAccess program helping Indigenous artists to develop skills in digital storytelling. Our aim is to assist artists to take their work and stories to wider audiences.

The program is assisted by funding from the ACT component of the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, ACT and other State and Territory Governments.

Jenni Kemarre Martiniello is an award winning poet, writer, visual artist and academic of Arrernte, Chinese and Anglo-Celtic descent. She was awarded the Canberra Critics Circle Award 2000 for Literature, and was an ACT Creative Arts Fellow for 2003. Jenni has published five books and her poetry, prose and essays have been published nationally and internationally.

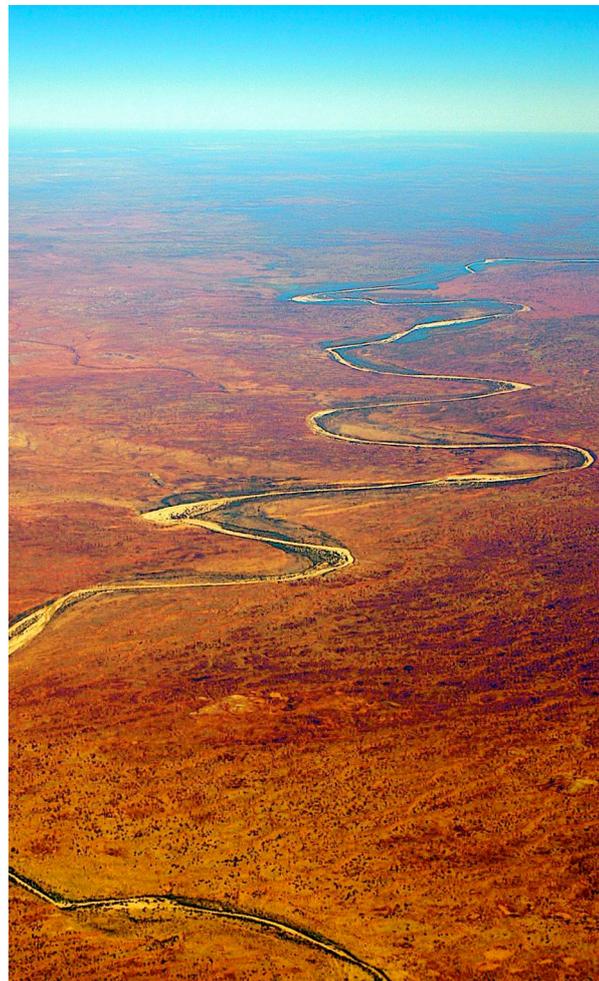
Duncan Smith is a Wiradjuri Man from the Wellington/Dubbo area of Central Western New South Wales. *Wiradjuri Echoes*, Duncan's Digital Story is about connection to family—past, present and future.

Renee Smith's traditional country is around Tingha in New South Wales. This is her maternal grandmother's country, the Anaiwan/Gamilaroi. Her father is from the Wiradjuri tribe, which spans western New South Wales and parts of Victoria.

Ed Whalan was the tutor and project coordinator for PhotoAccess. Neville O'Neill, ACT Indigenous Arts Officer, provided project support.

PhotoAccess is pleased to present *River* by Jenni Kemarre Martiniello, *Wiradjuri Echoes* by Duncan Smith and *Telling My Story* by Renee Smith in the HUW DAVIES GALLERY during NAIDOC Week 2007.

David Chalker



From *River* by Jenni Kemarre Martiniello

River

Artist's statement Jenni Kemarre Martiniello

'I am the river of birth and death and story ...' encapsulates what it means to be an Aboriginal woman, to be a part of that river of grandmothers, daughters, mothers and granddaughters that represents the survival of land, place, identity and culture. It is also a contemporary interpretation of my grandmother's traditional law—grandmother's law—where the grandmothers are the teachers, wisdom holders and custodians of law, culture and tradition for all future generations.

Jenni Kemarre Martiniello—Biography

I am a writer, poet, academic and visual artist of Arrernte, Chinese and Anglo-Celtic descent. My Father was born at Hookey's Waterhole south-west of Oodnadatta, and my grandmother came from Charlotte Waters on the Larapinta (Finke River). Her first languages were Alyerntarpe and Pertame. I am Kemarre Skin, and my totem is the Mulga, or King Brown snake.

My textile works are inspired by my Father's and Grandmother's country, and use multiple layers of 'speaking', poetry in tracks and poetry graphics inscribing our Ancestral connections to land, waterholes, rivers and place, and the flora and fauna associated with those places. Underlying them are references to spirituality, changed and changing socio-cultural landscapes, and the passage of inheritance of all of these through generations.

I use screen prints, hand inscriptions, hand painting and collage in a variety of media to reflect the multiliteracies traditional people use in 'reading' and expressing the landscapes we collectively inhabit, physical, social, cultural and spiritual. The Mother-Skin Series of works began in 2004 and is ongoing. It is based on the concept that each piece is a strip torn from the skin of the earth, hence the title Mother-Skin Series. There is a traditional story that says everything on the land, people, animals, rivers, mountains, rocks and flora, are part of the living, breathing skin of the earth which nurtures us as a Mother nurtures her child. The repeating motif in these works is the Women's Ancestral Hand, denoting Creation, undying presence, and Grandmother's Law, the matriarchal passage of knowledge from generation to generation. I use my poetry to inscribe the changed and changing layers of human action upon the land.

My photography is also taken through a cultural lens, aerial photographs of my Grandmother's and Father's country, and other works which reflect the enduring and spiritual dimensions of a natural world people pass unseeing, and which have sustained the physical, psychological and spiritual well-being of Indigenous people since time immemorial. My lino-cuts, woodblocks and glass painting are alternative media which allow me to express and further explore the same themes through different artistic techniques which present their own visual lexicon.

I have a BA (Visual Arts), Canberra School of Art; Certificate IV Indigenous Fashion and Art, Canberra Institute of Technology; a Certificate IV (Printmaking), Charles Darwin University; and a BA (Hons), ANU. My work has been shown in over 50 exhibitions since 1985, and is held in multiple private collections.

Wiradjuri Echoes

Duncan Smith

Duncan Smith is a Wiradjuri Man from the Wellington/Dubbo area of Central Western New South Wales. He has lived in Canberra for the last 20 odd years. Duncan is a performer, musician, dancer, visual artist; he also runs an Aboriginal consultancy business and he manages the ACT Indigenous Dance and Performance Group—Wiradjuri Echoes. He is a true believer in Reconciliation at the national grass roots level. Duncan Smith is also an ambassador for Canteen for Kids and just recently he received the 2006 ACT and Region Community to Children's Award. Duncan's digital short film is about connection to Family—past, present and future—and that is why he has titled it *Wiradjuri Echoes*.

Telling My Story

In memory of Isabelle Jerrard

Renee Smith

Renee Smith's traditional country is around Tingha in New South Wales. This is her maternal grandmother's country, the Anaiwan/Gamilaroi. Her father is from the Wiradjuri tribe, which spans western New South Wales and parts of Victoria. Despite having lived in Canberra for the last 20 years, she still goes home to her country and family.

Renee's formal training at the Canberra Institute for the Arts, and in Indigenous Art and Fashion at CIT have allowed her to explore and develop innovative and contemporary ways to express her cultural heritage. These new artistic dimensions of visual expression have pushed the boundaries of design, concept and technique beyond the traditional and are reflected in all dimensions and media in her work.

The inspiration for Renee's art is derived from childhood memories and the stories told to her by her maternal grandmother, and her own personal research into her family history. Renee conducts her own online arts business under the name of Googarh Designs.



From *Telling My Story* by Renee Smith



From *Wiradjuri Echoes* by Duncan Smith

List of works

- 1 ***River*** by Jennifer Kemarre Martiniello, digital story on DVD 2 minutes 17
- 2 ***Wiradjuri Echoes*** by Duncan Smith, digital story on DVD 2 minutes 49
- 3 ***Telling My Story*** by Renee Smith, digital story on DVD 1 minute 29

Some works are for sale—please ask at desk

Jenni Kemarre Martiniello

- 4 ***20/20 Vision—Drought, Salt, Fire, Taungurong Country, Vic*** 280 x 640 mm inkjet prints
- 5 ***Word Search for Woman*** 550 x 470 mm fabric banner
- 6 ***Inheriting My Mother's Garden*** 800 x 440 mm fabric banner
- 7 ***Storm Lace—Djirbalgnan Country*** 105 x 455 mm inkjet print
- 8 ***Farming for Drought—Taungurong Country, Vic*** 185 x 925 mm inkjet prints
- 9 ***Peel Back Any Clouds*** 285 x 190 mm inkjet print
- 10 ***Serenity*** 190 x 285 mm inkjet print

Renee Smith

- 11 ***Miramar 2*** 360 x 270 mm inkjet print on watercolour paper (available in a limited edition of 5)
- 12 ***Miramar 3*** 360 x 270 mm inkjet print on watercolour paper (available in a limited edition of 5)
- 13 ***Untitled*** 360 x 175 mm inkjet print on watercolour paper (available in a limited edition of 5)
- 14 ***Eagle Over River*** 360 x 175 mm inkjet print on watercolour paper (available in a limited edition of 5)
- 15 ***Bullawangen Mountain*** 300 x 750 mm lino print 2/5
- 16 ***Miramar 1*** 745 x 1200 mm gouache, watercolour, ochres, pastel and charcoal on watercolour paper
(*Miramar 1* is available in a limited edition of 5, inkjet print on watercolour paper)

Duncan Smith

- 17 ***Wiradjuri Nguurambang Series 1*** 590 x 290 mm ochre on canvas board
- 18 ***Wiradjuri Nguurambang Series 2*** 690 x 365 mm ochre on canvas board
- 19 ***Wiradjuri Nguurambang Series 3*** 590 x 290 mm ochre on canvas board
- 20 ***Wiradjuri Nguurambang Series 4*** 690 x 365 mm ochre on canvas board
- 21 ***Wiradjuri Nguurambang Series 5*** 590 x 290 mm ochre on canvas board
- 22 ***Wiradjuri Nguurambang Series 6*** 690 x 365 mm ochre on canvas board

The photographs accompanying these paintings are not for sale