

Contact Details

Leanne Watson

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Leanne Watson

Leanne Watson is a Darug woman commonly known in the Aboriginal community as Mulgo, meaning Black Swan. The daughter of Aunty Edna Watson and Uncle Allan Watson, elders of the Darug community, Leanne was born and raised in Sydney. She is now a mother and grandmother and has spent her life living, promoting and protecting Darug culture, people and places.

An artist, educator and book illustrator, she started painting at a young age, taught by her mother Aunty Edna Watson and her brother Bundeluk Watson. Now an accomplished and highly sought-after artist, her paintings and artwork are renowned by many. Leanne's artwork is inspired by her family, Darug country, the environment and life experience



Leanne Watson – CV

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Songlines and Sightlines – Colouring in Blacktown*, Leo Kelly Blacktown Art Centre
Dyarubbin Exhibition, State Library of NSW Sydney
She Speaks, Blacktown Native Institute Site, Biennale of Sydney. (2020-2021)
- 2020 *Solastalgia Mawa Ngurra*, Fairfield City Museum and Gallery
- 2019 *Darug Women* Exhibition, Transport NSW Head Office
- 2016 *Meeting of the Waters Exhibition*, Summer Institute of the Antipodes, Western Sydney University
- 2015-2019 *Art in the Hills*, Oakhill College Annual Exhibition
- 2014 *Cultural Seasons* exhibition, Muru Mittigar Cultural Centre

SELECTED AWARDS & COMMISSIONS

- 2021 *Mariyung*, Exterior carriage design commissioned for Transport NSW's new Intercity Train fleet
Bidjigal Biyanili, commissioned for Baulkham Hills Private Hospital
- 2020 Rouse Hill Mural, commissioned for GPT Rouse Hill Town Centre
Cooee Mittigar, Winner of the 2020 Prime Ministers Children Literary Award. Jasmine Seymour (Author) and Leanne Watson (Illustrations)
Daruga Healing, commissioned for Nepean Blue Mountains Health as part of NAIDOC Week 2020
Darug people, the College, and Marella commissioned for William Clarke College
Gumadagu Gurang (Place of Our Ancestors), Mural Westmead Hospital redevelopment roof installation in collaboration with Leanne Tobin, Auntie Edna Watson Rhiannon Wright, Shay Tobin and Chris Tobin.
Mootang Tarimi, commissioned for the Nepean - Blue Mountains Health Bus
Ngara Yiribana, commissioned for Air Mobility Training and development Unit, RAAF Base Richmond
Cooee Mittigar Shortlisted,
- 2020 Small Press Network Book of the Year Awards
 - 2020 Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards, award for new illustrator
 - 2020 Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards, eight to 10 years
 - Notables, 2020 Children's Book Council of Australia, Book of the Year Awards, Eve Pownall Award for Information Books
- 2019 *Buraga*, commissioned for Leigh Memorial Church, Paramatta
Mulgoa, commissioned for the Hotel-Mercure Penrith.
Creeklines, Mosaic in collaboration with Leanne Tobin commissioned for Transport NSW Rooty Hill Station Upgrade.
Bungarabee Dreaming Trail signage, commissioned for Sydney Zoo.

EDUCATION

- 2015 Aboriginal Archaeology, University of New England

RELATED WORK HISTORY

- 2006-present Director, Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation.

SELECTED PROJECTS, PUBLIC ART, COMMUNITY ARTS

- 2020 Windsor Bridge and Thompson Square, <https://www.thompsonsquare.com.au/>
Contributor and exhibitor, Draft Heritage Interpretation Plan for the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project, Hawkesbury City Council
https://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/144087/20200225AT1toItem030.pdf
- 2020 Contributor, Reconciliation Strategy and Darug Culture and Language Program, William Clarke College
- 2020 Contributor and Darug Cultural Consultant, Riverstone Public art mural with Artists Jan Cleveringa and Rosalind Stanley
- 2019 Contributing illustrator, Young Dark Emu by Bruce Pascoe (Author)
- 2018–2022 Darug Cultural Consultant and exhibitor *Dyarubbin: The Real Secret River Project* with Prof. Grace Karskens (winner 2018 Coral Thomas Fellowship) State Library of New South Wales.
- 2018 - present Darug Language & Art Workshop facilitator, Sydney Living Museums, *Eel Festival* (Parramatta) and *NAIDOC Week celebrations* (Rouse Hill)
- 2017 - present Artist Contributor to Modern Teaching Aids educational teaching aids.
- 2019- present Mentoring Aboriginal Guides and Key developer Darug Cultural education program, Sydney Zoo
- 2015 Darug Cultural Consultant, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, Northwest Rail Link Project and Bella vista Station Priority Precinct Rezoning Proposal
Darug Cultural Contributor, *Showground Station Precinct Aboriginal Heritage Assessment* for The Department of Planning and Environment

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hamilton, Eamon. Art links ancient culture with RAAF unit <https://news.defence.gov.au/people/art-links-ancient-culture-raaf-unit>

Seymour, Jasmin (author) and Leanne Watson (illustrations). *Cooee Mittigar*. Magabala Books 2019

The Conversation, December 2020 <https://theconversation.com/friday-essay-how-a-long-lost-list-is-helping-us-remap-darug-place-names-and-culture-on-dyarubbin-the-hawkesbury-river-148004>

<https://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/file/leanne-watson-and-rhiannon-wright-teachers-songlines-language-cultural-workshop>

<http://www.kids-bookreview.com/2019/11/meet-illustrator-leanne-watson.html>

Feszczuk, Emily, *Nepean leads the way with new hospital signage*, The Western Weekender, 10/11/2020. <https://westernweekender.com.au/2020/11/nepean-leads-the-way-with-new-hospital-signage/>

Songlines and Sightlines, <https://blacktownarts.com.au/whats-on/exhibitions/songlines-and-sightlines/>

Prime Minister's Literary Awards <https://www.arts.gov.au/departmental-news/2020-winners-announced-today-pmlitawards>

<https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/article/2020/12/11/indigenous-authors-win-big-prime-ministers-literary-awards>

COLLECTIONS

Western Sydney University Art Collection, Leigh Memorial Church, William Clarke College, Hotel - Mercure Penrith, Hotel Mercure - Rose Hill, Baulkham Hills Private Hospital, NSW Telco Authority (Emergency Services)

Private Collections Australia and overseas,