

*kaylarunya on Timtumili Minanya**

Black swans on the River Derwent

Emma Robertson, 2024

The artwork presented here incorporates a profound connection to Land, Sea, and Sky Country. The elements in these artworks are a reflection of my deep respect and admiration for the natural beauty and historical significance of this region.

The Derwent River serves as a source of inspiration for these works. The inclusion of beautiful reeds that grow along these banks pays homage to this place's rich biodiversity. An additional layer of significance is the presence of magnificent black swans, which reside in this area. Our people have harvested swan eggs sustainably, serving as a reminder of the relationship between our local ecosystem and our survival as a community.

The artwork represents our people's living sites, which are located up and down this great river. The shells emerging from these panels represent our culture, symbolising our connection to this sacred land. To further emphasise that connection I have added crushed shells and water from the River Derwent to this concrete mix, to bring country to this artwork and have it connected to the land by more than just its footings.

I have incorporated a star map to emphasise our deep connection to Sky Country. This star map represents the celestial landscape of Sky Country, recalling a time when there was no bridge or causeway construction, preserving the pristine beauty and tranquillity of the river.

**In palawa kani, the language of the Tasmanian Aborigines, with thanks to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre.*