



JOANNE CURRIE NALINGU

Born: 1964 Mitchell QLD

Language: Gunguri

Country: Maranoa River

Region: Mitchell QLD

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Joanne grew up on the riverbanks of the Maranoa at the Yumba, an Aboriginal Mission outside of Mitchell in southwest Queensland. She is a self taught artist, and began painting in 1989.

Joanne's artworks interpret these formative times and continue Joanne's intensive exploration of motifs and symbols of the Maranoa. Joanne's childhood memories are of a grass roots lifestyle - families and hardships. Her choice of colour and form in her works reflects this heritage - both personal and cultural.

In 1992 Joanne Currie began her artistic and cultural research that has culminated in the current work she produces. She was searching for an accurate way to represent the visual language of her people and country.

Joanne spent considerable time at the Queensland Museum examining the collection of shield designs from the area. The important information she gathered from the collection has been merged with her constant ongoing investigations into formal colour and composition to produce remarkable interpretations of traditional motifs. The outcome of this research primarily presents itself in the *Senseless* fiberglass sculpture series and her recent digital works.

“This concept is derived from my ongoing work and interest in the ‘Maranoa’ cultural material and designs from the Mandandanji people [Gunguri language group] of the

Mitchell area in South West Queensland. I grew up in there in the 1960's on the 'Yumba' [Mission], by the banks of the Maranoa River. "

"The Maranoa Shield designs are largely based on intersecting diamond patterns and body paint lines. The oval shape of the shield itself is also used as a visual element. The idea of Waterways is referenced by linear designs of the river and clay pans."

"My new body of work using fiberglass and two-pac paints links these ancient patterns with an absolutely modern finish and aesthetic. These works are specifically made to be placed in the contemporary environment."

-Joanne Currie Nalingu