

Mitch Mahoney Foundation, 2018



Commissioned for
Knox City Council
Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander
programs.

Artist Biography

My name is Mitch Mahoney, I was born in North West Victoria and grew up along the Murray River. Hot dry land where the rivers are thick with clay and cool life bringing water makes up my country.

My mother is a Boon Wurrung woman whose people are one of the groups that make up the Kulin Nation. My father is a Baarkindji man from Darling River country.

My art reflects my home and the natural connection I feel inside to all that my home supports, creates, provides and the ever-changing influence it has on me.

I currently live on Wanaruha country in the Hunter Valley of NSW, this proximity to the ocean is also reflected in my art. I am a young Aboriginal artist with great pride and passion in and for my people, my land and our future.

My artwork speaks of me, myself and I in every way imaginable. It is a self-made journey constructed through my emotions, my life and my current consciousness, to me my work is an extension of myself.

It is my pain, my joy, my hardships and my triumphs all at once, with every detail honest to my life and my state of mind. The speed in which I work and designs that I use represent how I feel.

I use my art to create stories of myself, others and life's journey. I see it as my own personal language that only I can understand created with images and emotions.

Artist Statement

Foundation is a piece that shows the mark we have upon the land, community and others around us, it speaks of the complexity of all our interactions with the world and the way we have to create foundations in our society to build upon in the hopes of creating a better future for all people building up structures in our local community's that foster understanding, tolerance and respect between peoples of all backgrounds creating a community that understands that our differences are our strengths and our diversity is our greatest quality.

The piece is layered into three sections, the hand representing the community and their interaction with all their complexities and differences, the earth underneath shows the land and culture each piece of earth being different but comes together to create a whole that is solid, becoming a foundation on which to stand something that all people should care for and nurture. The last layer represents the things that are built through working with the land and the people it shows the expansion of understanding between all people and the ability of good people doing good work growing outwards to help others.