

Aitkenvale State School

Yama's Dreaming

Our Aitkenvale State School mob chose to create their piece of artwork around the Stingray and the Ocean. The Stingray is a majestic animal that symbolises stealth and strength in both Aboriginal peoples' stories and Torres Strait Islander peoples' stories.

In Wulgurukaba and Bindal People dreamtime stories it is said that the stingray is an ocean guardian who helped to guide lost fishermen to safety.

In the Torres Strait Islander peoples' stories, the Stingray (Yama) was washed ashore and turned on its back, exposing its pure white belly. The belly is represented by the sand featured on the dress.

Stingrays are often seen gliding over the Reef without touching the coral. They come in all shapes and sizes and are one of the most beautiful creatures in the sea.

Stingrays are a common feature within our art piece allowing the viewer to follow their pathway around the model. Each stingray has its own unique pattern, and their size varies however they are painted the same colour showing the collectiveness of 'one' in many. Sometimes seen by itself and other times strength in numbers.

The dress is painted in layers to show the depths of our oceans, shallows of the shore and our sandy beaches. Locally found shells litter the edging of the dress.

It's not until you look past the stingrays that you see many hidden creatures and ocean life. These are significant to each artist as they represent their family totem or connection to mother.

Yama's Dreaming 2023

Jaylen ADAMS, Aidel BOYD-ADAMS, Jahmarley BANN, Astrid BRAY, Nikolas CARMELO, Brighton CUPITT, Katey DESHONG, Mason JONES, Kayden KRISTEN, Keisha-Maree IUDICE, Sari JENSEN, Latina JOHNSON, Xaetia MANINGO-STANEKE, Quinelle MAREKO (model), Nasaleah NELIMAN, Ariana SANTO, Myrrdjienne TOLEDO.

Fabric, material, lace, paint, air dry clay, fishing net, shells, raffia, plastic, feathers, acrylic paint, permanent markers, cotton, glue, wire, weaving mat.

