

LARA WENT

WORIMI WOMAN, FORSTER, NSW

TITLE

'Helping Our Children Grow'

CONCEPT



My artwork is strongly influenced by my own experiences through my first pregnancy and becoming a Mother for the first time. I know first-hand how important it is to have support from your partner, family, extended family and your community throughout your pregnancy and especially those first few daunting months as a new Mother.

I am a sun and earth worshiper. I am inspired by all of our earth's systems; air, land, water, plants and animals. I chose to paint a natural environment including grass, trees, animals, sun and the sky to symbolise our connection to the land. If life is to be sustained on earth all of the systems mentioned above cannot be separated, for what is happening to one is also felt by all the other systems. In the same way, a human (adult or child) is made up of several parts, which are the physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual. When one of these parts is not working it has an impact on the others, especially in children. I have included these five parts into my painting as part of the tree, the brain for mental health, apple for physical

health, heart for emotional health, hands and heart for social health and lotus flower for spiritual health. I chose to paint the tree as the focal point to signify life and to highlight the important role all five parts play in child and maternal health and child growth development.

The human figures next to and in front of the tree represent family, mothers, fathers, pregnant women, children and extended family. I painted them very close to one another in hope that the viewer feels a sense of community and belonging. I painted the red lines through the people to show the viewer that all of the figures are connected as one big extended family.

ABOUT LARA WENT

Lara Went is a Worimi woman from Forster, NSW. Lara's artwork reflects her connection to country and the ocean, as well as her own experiences of becoming a mother. The crystal clear quality of the local waterways, the wide varieties of sea life as well as the traditional local dreamtime stories inspire her art. Her artworks are infused with turquoises, blues and purples as well as the earthy tones of traditional Aboriginal Art.

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