

In Transitions

Walk. Train. Bus. Barge. Bus. Walk. Arrive. Exchanging stress for calm, and the city for the bush and the beach, you can relax – you're on Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island). You're on island time now.

Australian and international travellers come to Minjerribah to live, work and explore, whether in a permanent, semi-permanent or temporary capacity. The island is the ancestral home of the Quandamooka people, who live and work there. It is also home to a diversity of land and marine animals including koalas, kangaroos, kookaburras, sea eagles, whales, dolphins, green sea turtles and manta rays, as well as abundant native flora such as *Ipomea pes-caprae*, a sand dune vine, bracken fern and wattles. Minjerribah is a rare piece of paradise on earth. However, getting there can be a long process as the island is unbridged and is only accessible by barge or water taxi. You have to dedicate some time if you want to get to Straddie.

It is the interstitial transit period that exists between leaving the mainland and arriving at Minjerribah that is the subject of *In Transitions*, a multidisciplinary exhibition by biochrome photo-media artist Renata Buziak, poet Vicki Kelleher and drawing artist Zoe Wolfe, who all have long personal histories with the island. Buziak completed PhD research on medicinal plants of the island, working with the Quandamooka people and cultural protocols. Kelleher is a former Minjerribah resident, and Wolfe has developed an interest in the island's local flora and fauna having grown up holidaying there.

What goes through our minds when we leave one place of residence for another? How does our relationship to our environment change as the environment itself changes? The artists decided to ask local residents and visitors these questions and more via a survey. One respondent reflected: "[I'm] filled with anticipation, [I] can't wait to dip my feet in the water and breathe in the ocean air". Another summarised: "It feels like I'm coming home".

Themes of leaving, disconnecting, transitioning and arriving were drawn from the survey and form the basis for the collaborative two-dimensional artwork created during the project. Textured layerings of biochromes, poetry and drawing elements were digitally assembled to produce evocative canvas and silk-over-canvas works, the diffusion of the silk suggesting surf and sand, memory and time.

Arriving takes its own time maps the passage of the barge through the water as it makes its way across Moreton Bay towards Minjerribah. *Seeing blue through green* depicts the point on the road between Goompi (Dunwich) and Mooloomba (Point Lookout) where the trees part and we catch a glimpse of cerulean ocean and sky – this point in the journey always brings a rush of excitement. *Moving with tide*, with its arcs and wave-like forms, offers an aerial perspective of the tidal movements of Home Beach.

An endearing egalitarian aspect of this project is that it does not just involve the three artists Buziak, Kelleher and Wolfe – members of the community have also been involved through the survey conducted. Snippets of text from the survey have been woven into Kelleher's poetry, which winds its way through the artworks. In this way, *In Transitions* can be considered a community collaborative project.

Arrive. Walk. Splash. Swim. Rest. Relax. Create.

Genevieve Memory

Genevieve Memory is a visual artist, composer, curator, writer, and egalitarian living and working on First Nation's land in Meanjin (Brisbane), Australia. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Art (Painting) with Distinction from Griffith University, and a Bachelor of Music (Music Education) from the University of Queensland. Genevieve is represented by the Australian Music Centre.