



## MEDIA RELEASE

Subject: **'Island Welcome' + 'Makeda Duong: I Am Uncomfortable'**

Contact: **Fulvia Mantelli, Team Leader Arts Development + Gallery Director**

0407 182 960 / [f.mantelli@murraybridge.sa.gov.au](mailto:f.mantelli@murraybridge.sa.gov.au)

Date: **Wednesday 20 September 2023**

---

TWO EVOCATIVE NEW EXHIBITIONS are free to experience at Murray Bridge Regional Gallery!

**Island Welcome**, presents twelve leading Australian jewellers with large-scale and intricate neckpieces that explore contemporary jewellery as a gesture of greeting and in response to current Australian immigration and refugee policies.

Artists include SA-based Lauren Simeoni, Kath Inglis and Jess Dare, together with Liv Boyle, Michelle Cangiano, Anna Davern, Nicky Hepburn, Manon van Kouswijk, Sim Luttin, Vicki Mason, Belinda Newick and Melinda Young.

Using diverse materials such as seaweed, paper, an Australia flag, shells, metal, clay, used thongs, they position adornment as a vehicle for political discourse, empathy and shared humanity.

**I Am Uncomfortable** presents pivotal works from across a decade of Adelaide-based artist Makeda Duong's provocative practice. The exhibition explores aspects of her lived experience with perceptions of race, gender, sexuality and mental health.

Makeda creates intricate textile artworks as antidotes to personal challenges in her life, which resonate with many shared experiences. Her works raise awareness of these issues and encourage us to move beyond stereotypes and misconceptions.

Gallery Director Fulvia Mantelli says: "We are thrilled to have the opportunity to present these two powerful exhibitions that are both exceptionally beautiful and thought-provoking."

"All of the works in both exhibitions are made with compassion, humour and excellent craftsmanship", she says. "Audiences are sure to be deeply moved, as well as find different ways to think about timely social issues."

**Exhibitions duration:** Current until Sunday 12 November

**For more information:** Contact Fulvia Mantelli, Gallery Director:

[f.mantelli@murraybridge.sa.gov.au](mailto:f.mantelli@murraybridge.sa.gov.au) / 0407 182 960.

---

The regional South Australian tour of *Island Welcome* is presented by Country Arts SA and curated by Belinda Newick.



[murraybridgegallery.sa.gov.au](http://murraybridgegallery.sa.gov.au)

[galleries@murraybridge.sa.gov.au](mailto:galleries@murraybridge.sa.gov.au)



@murraybridgeregionalgallery



Rural City of Murray Bridge



@murraybridgeregionalgallery



RuralCityOfMurrayBridge