

# Brimbank Yarns

New and Emerging Stories of Belonging through  
Art and Text

## Media Release



**Brimbank Yarns** is a creative collaboration between the Sunshine Print Artspace (SPA), MiCare Ltd and the Brimbank community encouraging local people from a refugee or asylum seeker background to tell their stories based on the concept of “belonging”.

Participants in the project, who will be exhibiting their artworks, are: Anne Mubale from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Matondo Kissenza from Angola, Ruth Gedle-Gebreab from Eritrea, and Ana Vahab from Iran.

Through a series of workshops their stories which are personal and/or culturally based, were recorded using art and text, Ana Vahab, project participant from Iran, said, “I don’t often get out and meet people, this project was an opportunity for me to do just that. I really appreciated the new skills I learnt and plan to continue to build on this knowledge”.

The art produced in the Brimbank Yarns project will be celebrated in an exhibition and documented in an illustrated booklet. The opening night of the exhibition is Thursday 19 March 2020, from 6pm – 8pm at the Sunshine Print Artspace and will run till 9 April 2020. The exhibition is open to the public Wednesday – Saturday, 10am – 3pm or by appointment.

Master printmakers and founders of the not for profit access print studio ‘Sunshine Print Artspace’, Phillip Doggett-Williams and Adrian Spurr worked closely with the participants to help construct their story lines and produce two-colour screen printed images.

Phillip Doggett-Williams artist and president of SPA said, “This project has given the participants a voice to express deeply held feelings and grow a sense of connectedness and empowerment.” James White, Director of MiCare Ltd, a Not for Profit organisation caring for refugees and asylum seekers also commented, “Community members express the ongoing need to connect with local opportunities and become active in civic life. Moreover, the settlement experience for people who come to Australia is cast through the lens of rebuilding life and establishing a sense of belonging. Brimbank Yarns sets a platform for exploring both endeavors.”

This project was funded by the Brimbank City Council Community Grants program 2019/2020

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