

# CAIRNS ART GALLERY

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27 JUN –  
22 AUG 2026

## PHILOMENA YEATMAN

*BABIM, MUUDJUM,  
DJANGUUL*

ARTWORK LABELS



Philomena Yeatman: *Babim, Muudjum, Djanguul* has been supported through the Cairns RSL Club Artist Fellowship Awards

# Philomena YEATMAN

Gunggandji

b. 1960, Cairns, Queensland

## ***Entwined Presence***

2026

lawyer cane, Pandanus, terracotta ochre, clay, wood glue

Courtesy of the artist and Yarrabah Arts and Cultural Precinct

Mother's womb. The beginning. This artwork represents three interconnected wombs: *Babim*, *Muudjum*, *Djanguul*, symbolising grandmother, mother and daughter. The womb forms show where life begins and where knowledge, tradition and love are first held and passed on. Through the woven shapes, the work speaks about the strength of women and the deep cultural ties that connect each generation. Gulngga-L represents this place of beginning, to give birth, where family, identity and culture are nurtured, protected and carried forward through women's bodies, stories and hands.

## ***Babim, Muudjum, Djanguul***

2026

lawyer cane, Pandanus, terracotta ochre, clay, wood glue

Courtesy of the artist and Yarrabah Arts and Cultural Precinct

*Babim, Muudjum, Djanguul* explores the deep connections between grandmother, mother and daughter through forms that suggest the womb as a place of life, creation and cultural continuity. Each woven shape represents the nurturing force that flows through generations, holding stories of family, Country and identity. The stretched and connected forms show that, no matter how far people travel from their homelands, they remain tied to culture through unbroken threads of memory, knowledge and belonging.

## ***Soul Threads***

2026

lawyer cane, Pandanus, terracotta ochre, clay, wood glue

Courtesy of the artist and Yarrabah Arts and Cultural Precinct

The connected threads symbolise strong bonds between family, Country and community, showing how people remain tied together through shared history, love and belonging. Each strand suggests a relationship, and when woven together, these strands become stronger than they are on their own. The artwork reminds us that connection is built through care, respect and the continuing links between people, place and ancestry.

## ***First Breath***

2026

lawyer cane, Pandanus, terracotta ochre, clay, wood glue

Courtesy of the artist and Yarrabah Arts and Cultural Precinct

This woven artwork speaks of culture as something carried through the hands, where each fibre holds memory, story and knowledge passed down through generations of women. The process of weaving becomes more than making an object; it becomes a way of teaching, remembering and honouring those who came before. Through the careful twisting and binding of materials, the artwork reflects how cultural knowledge is held, protected, and shared across time.

# ***Mother's Sacred Connection***

2026

lawyer cane, Pandanus, terracotta ochre, clay, wood glue

Courtesy of the artist and Yarrabah Arts and Cultural Precinct

Women's weaving is shown as an act of strength, patience and care, transforming natural materials into powerful forms that protect culture and keep ancestral knowledge alive. The slow and careful work of weaving reflects resilience, as women use their skills to create meaning from simple materials. These artworks celebrate the strength of women as makers, storytellers and keepers of culture, showing how their hands continue to shape identity, memory and belonging.

# ***Mother's Womb***

2025

lawyer cane, Pandanus, natural dyes

Cairns Art Gallery Collection. Purchased Cairns Art Gallery, 2025.  
Commissioned Cairns Art Gallery

*Mother's Womb 2025* is a reflection of the deep bonds entwining history, family, and heritage. Composed of three interconnected sculptures symbolising the wombs of *Babim*, *Muudjum*, *Djanguul* (grandmother, mother, daughter), they are joined in a circle formation by representational umbilical cords and painted with yellow ochre emblematic of relationships to Mother Earth. A work that 'signifies life, creation, and the nurturing force that flows through generations' it is a powerful assertion of her maternal connections and unbroken connection to culture.