



**ARTIST**  
**HOLLY SANDERS**

**TITLE**  
**JUGGI JALI -**  
**SACRED TREE**

**REGION**  
**BUNDJALUNG**



Holly Sanders is a proud Bundjalung woman from the North Coast of NSW, Australia. She currently lives and works as a teacher and artist on Yuin and Dharawal Countries. Through her art she aims to share her stories, culture and Country in a contemporary way.

Painting and maintaining cultural traditions is important for her identity, wellbeing and expresses the way she understands and respects her culture, ancestors and Country. She always looks to Country- the land, sky and the waters- and uses these images, stories and memories to paint. The patterns of Country at different times of the day and year influence heavily in her art.

Holly honors the continuing connection Bundjalung, Yuin and Dharawal people have to the land and acknowledges the stories, traditions and living cultures of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the oldest and longest continuing culture on the planet.

This work symbolises sacred trees on Country. Trees help anchor our identity and belonging to Country. They hold knowledge and maintain the wellbeing of our people, flora and fauna. Sacred Trees hold our ancestors' stories and are a direct link to our old people. They are important and connected in ceremony, birthing and burials. Sacred carved trees often mark important sites, such as burial grounds and sacred sites. They are also culturally significant during pregnancy and childbirth. Certain Birthing Trees are markers and places of shelter for women during labour and birth. Trees of the same species growing in the same stand are connected to each other through their root systems. They look, listen and understand. Sacred Trees are important to our people and our way of life, both physically, culturally and spiritually.