



# Barangaroo



# lendlease

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## First Public Artwork revealed on Sydney Harbour at Barangaroo

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A magnificent public artwork standing 22 metres tall at the southern gateway to Barangaroo was unveiled to the community today, marking the beginning of a series of public artworks that will be introduced to Sydney's cultural landscape under the Barangaroo Public Art and Cultural Plan<sup>1</sup>.

Created by two of Australia's leading Indigenous artists, local Bidjigal elder and senior artist Esme Timbery and Wiradjuri/Kamilaroi artist Jonathan Jones, **shell wall** is a vertical series of larger-than-life aluminium shell panels fixed to the Alexander building's façade, that represents an enduring connection to Country and the site's significant Indigenous and maritime history.

Speaking at the launch to more than 100 people from the arts and Indigenous community, Chair of the Lendlease Art Advisory Panel, Simon Mordant AM, said the artwork launches a journey of artistic discovery for visitors to Barangaroo: "The Barangaroo precinct is set to become a vibrant extension of Sydney's cultural ribbon, and **shell wall** is a stunning example of the wide range of public art, interpretive elements, and cultural and civic events which will be admired, debated and appreciated by Sydneysiders and tourists for many years to come."

The artwork is based on generations of Bidjigal knowledge, passed on to Esme Timbery and her family through her maternal line. It celebrates the culturally significant shell-making tradition that is unique to the Sydney Aboriginal community of La Perouse, and the female artists from this seaside community whom have been creating beautiful shell work for generations. This work is a continuation of this traditional knowledge, referencing the beauty and importance of Sydney's foreshore and its oyster encrusted foreshore during the colony's establishment in Sydney.

Curator Emily McDaniel said the art is specific to Sydney and could not be placed anywhere else in the world: "As we admire this artwork, we are reminded that we are situated alongside one of the most beautiful and naturally abundant harbours in the world, and that despite the ever-changing skyline of Sydney city, we are all standing on Eora country."

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