LARGE PRINT

Maree Clarke
Long Journey Home: We Are Still Here

26 February – 24 May 2026

Large
Print

Maree Clarke

Born 1961, Wamba Wamba/Latji Latji/Wadi Wadi Country, Swan Hill, Victoria. Lives and works on Wurundjeri/Boon Wurrung Country, Naarm/Melbourne. Yorta Yorta/Wamba Wamba/Mutti Mutti/Boonwurrung peoples.

Long Journey Home: We Are Still Here
2025
Digital print on mesh banner
Courtesy of the artist and Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne.

Long Journey Home: We Are Still Here revisits an image from the Maree Clarke's iconic photographic series of the same name, in which members of her family are presented standing on the shore of Port Phillip Bay, wearing traditional possum-skin cloaks and necklaces made from river reeds, the plants which form vital wetland habitats along local riverbanks and coastline; their faces are painted with white river clay. Clarke has overlaid the image with a hand-drawn map and a micrograph image of river reed, referencing the act of Boonwurrung People welcoming guests onto Country, and ensuring their safe passage.

Through its re-enactment of a scene from pre-invasion Melbourne, Clarke's work powerfully embodies the enduring sovereignty of the Boonwurrung People,

as Traditional Owners of the land on which Linden New Art stands, and their deep connection to it, over tens of thousands of years. Installed in front of Linden's heritage façade, the artwork renders the building's colonial history as a ghostly presence.

This project has been supported by the Copyright Agency Limited, and City of Port Phillip through its Cultural Development Fund.

FOR KIDS:

A very large photograph sits on the outside of Linden New Art. It covers part of the old building behind it.

In the artwork, Maree Clarke's family stands in shallow salt water. The place in

the photograph, and the place we stand now, are their land, water, and sky.

Maree Clarke and her family are Boon Wurrung people, part of the Kulin Nation. They have lived on this land for more than 60,000 years. The building behind has only been here for about 150 years.

This land was never given up. It was taken through violence, displacement, and attempts to erase Aboriginal people and culture.

Maree wants us to see that her family is still here. They make, share, and live through knowledge passed to them by those before, and they will pass it on, despite constant attempts to stop them.

This artwork asks us to think about what happened before today, and how that shapes the way things are now.

Where are the places you call home? Who else shares those places with you? Who lived there before?

What are you proud of about your family?

How does it feel to think that the land, water, and sky in the artwork are the same ones around us right now?

What can we do today to make things fairer for the Aboriginal people whose land we live on now?