

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Sonya Rankine: Spaces Between**

Award winning artist Sonya Rankine based on the Yorke Peninsula creates an installation of woven artworks and pendant lighting made with natural materials. The work creates intricate shadows in an interaction of light and dark.

**Exhibitor:** Sonya Rankine

JamFactory presents Sonya Rankine's new woven light sculptures in *Spaces Between*. Showing at the Historical Phone Booths at the Adelaide Railway Station from 18 October—23 January 2024 as part of this year's Tarnanthi: Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Art and Renewal SA.

Ngarrindjeri, Ngadjuri, Narungga & Wirangu artist Sonya Rankine is based in Moonta Bay on Narungga Country. She creates intricate woven jewellery, baskets and wall pieces. Educating her audience and truth telling is a big passion of Sonya's and she brings that knowledge to her workshops. Throughout her practice, she pays respect to her family connections with the Ngarrindjeri people of the lower Murray Coorong region and the Ngadjuri people from the mid-north of South Australia. Rankine won the NAIDOC SA Artist of the Year in 2021 and Don Dunstan Foundation Our Mob Emerging Artist Prize in 2019, which helped her heavily invest into her business *Lakun Mara*, translating to 'weaving hand' in Ngarrindjeri. She shares the truth of her country's history and the impact of colonisation through her practice. Her weaving is a crucial practice for cultural revival and an integral part of her identity as an artist. Sonya weaves with all sorts of materials that she mostly collects herself. She uses natural materials such as rushes, Ghania Fillium, beach hagstone, quandong seeds and palmy inflorescences, which reflects themes of climate change issues and connections to culture.

Displaying a new body of large woven light sculptures in *Spaces Between*. Rankine draws inspiration from life's divergent paths, a theme that is symbolised by the movement of people at Adelaide Railway Station.

"My weaving is about reviving and maintaining culture and the tradition of Ngarrindjeri weaving through creating contemporary Aboriginal art."

- Sonya Rankine, 2019