



Lisa Kennedy

Visual artist, story-teller,
author and descendant
of the Trawlwoolway people
of North East Tasmania

Artwork/Words

Lisa Kennedy

Photography/Design

Laura Brearley

A circular photograph showing a sunset over a vast ocean. In the distance, a range of mountains is visible under a sky with soft, golden light. In the foreground, the dark, rounded back of a whale is seen from behind, suggesting the viewer is on a boat. The entire scene is framed by a thick black border.

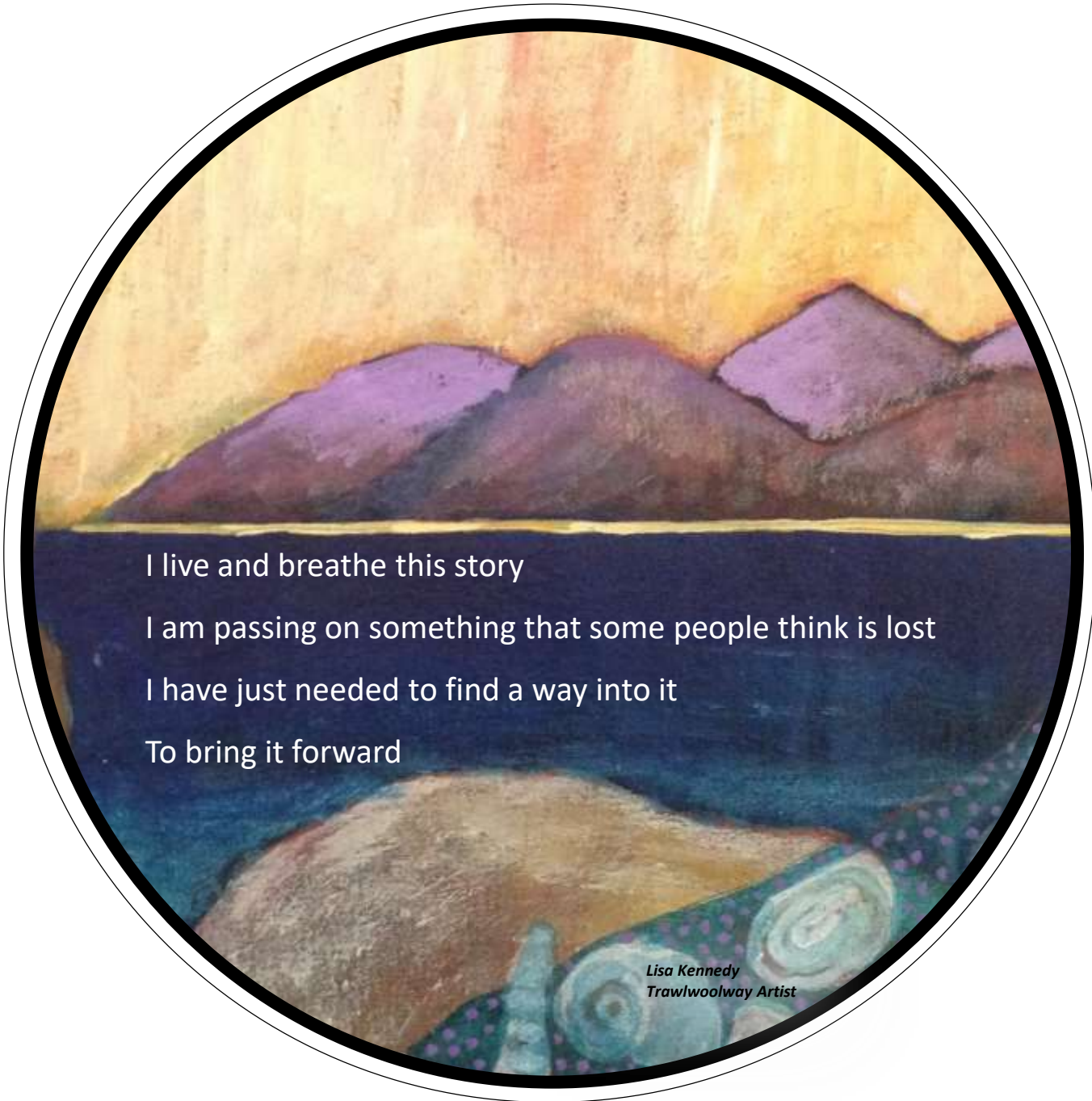
I am telling a story

A big story

It's a teaching story about the balance of life

I know this story

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Trawlwoolway Artist




I live and breathe this story

I am passing on something that some people think is lost

I have just needed to find a way into it


To bring it forward

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Trawlwoolway Artist



I work on paintings about intergenerational healing
My work is connected to all aspects of family and myself
From my own childhood

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Trawlwoolway Artist

A circular photograph of a coastal landscape. In the foreground on the left, a tree with green leaves and a light-colored trunk stands prominently. The middle ground shows a sandy area leading to a body of water. In the background, there are blue mountains under a clear sky. The entire scene is framed by a thick black border.

Back to my father's childhood

Back to my grandmothers and grandfathers

Then deeper into the past

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My paintings connect to a generational timeline
To something that is timeless

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My natural inclination is to stay in timelessness

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I am not following a script
I am not illustrating a script




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Trawlwoolway Artist



I am creating stories through pictures

I am finding feelings and exploring symbols


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Life gives us the symbols
That enable us to find our own path

We find our own meaning
When we are ready to receive it

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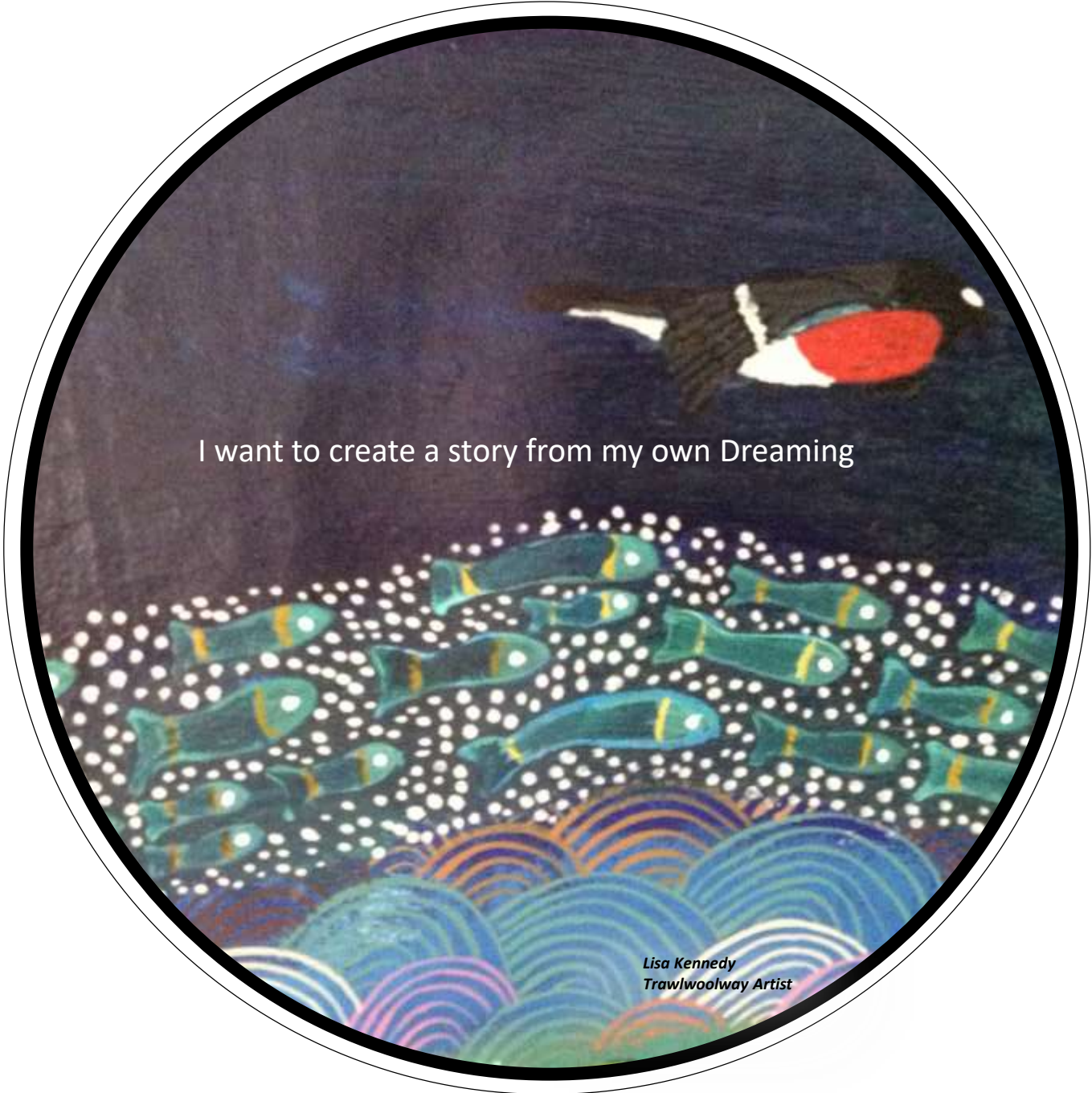


I am encoding and bringing symbols
Into the present-day story

The gathering and creation of the images
Allow me to find the words

It's a story within a story

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Trawlwoolway Artist



I want to create a story from my own Dreaming

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It's all there if you want to open to it

I draw out the images and bring them together

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The images help me frame the story
That I need to tell

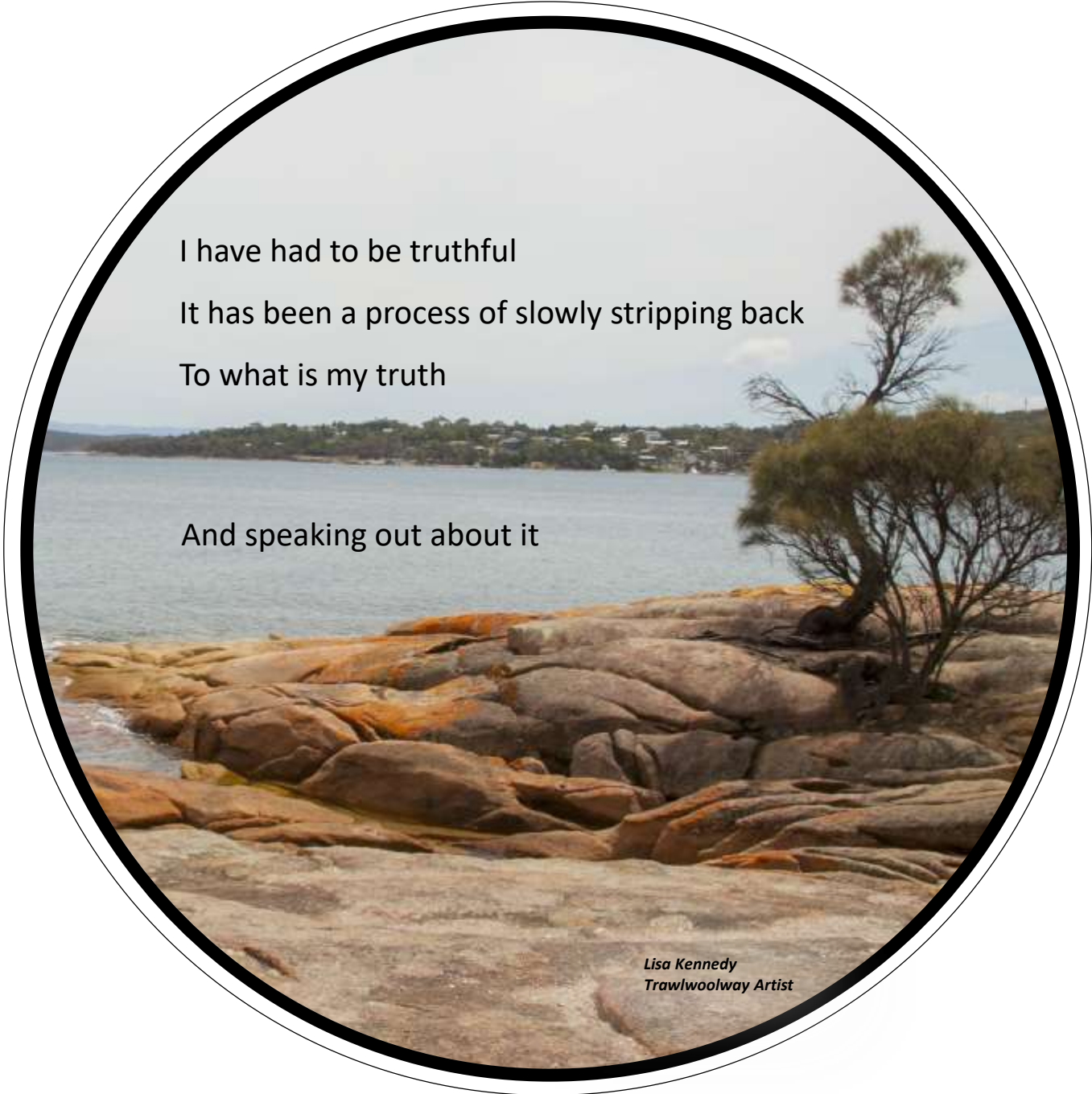
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Creating a bridge across time ...

and a story of healing and transformation

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Trawlwoolway Artist

A circular photograph of a rocky coastline. In the foreground, there are large, smooth, reddish-brown rocks. A small, gnarled tree with sparse green leaves stands on the right side of the rocks. In the background, a calm body of water stretches to a distant shoreline with some buildings and trees under a grey, overcast sky.

I have had to be truthful
It has been a process of slowly stripping back
To what is my truth

And speaking out about it

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Trawlwoolway Artist



That's what I'm doing all the time


It's all about relationships

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I have needed to be strong

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My painting is message making

It brings forward knowledge that has been hidden

My painting has always been about telling my story

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Trawlwoolway Artist

A circular painting depicting four Indigenous Australians, likely from the Trawlwoolway region, sitting on a rocky ledge and gazing at a vast, starry night sky. The figures are rendered in earthy tones of brown and red, with their backs to the viewer. The sky is a deep, vibrant blue, filled with numerous white stars and constellations. Some stars are marked with small white crosses. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual. The painting is framed by a thick black border.

It has been about the Old Ones
Showing me my life purpose

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Trawlwoolway Artist



My paintings have helped me remember
Where I have been

They have helped me see where I am going

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I feel I have finally got a language
And am fulfilling my spiritual purpose

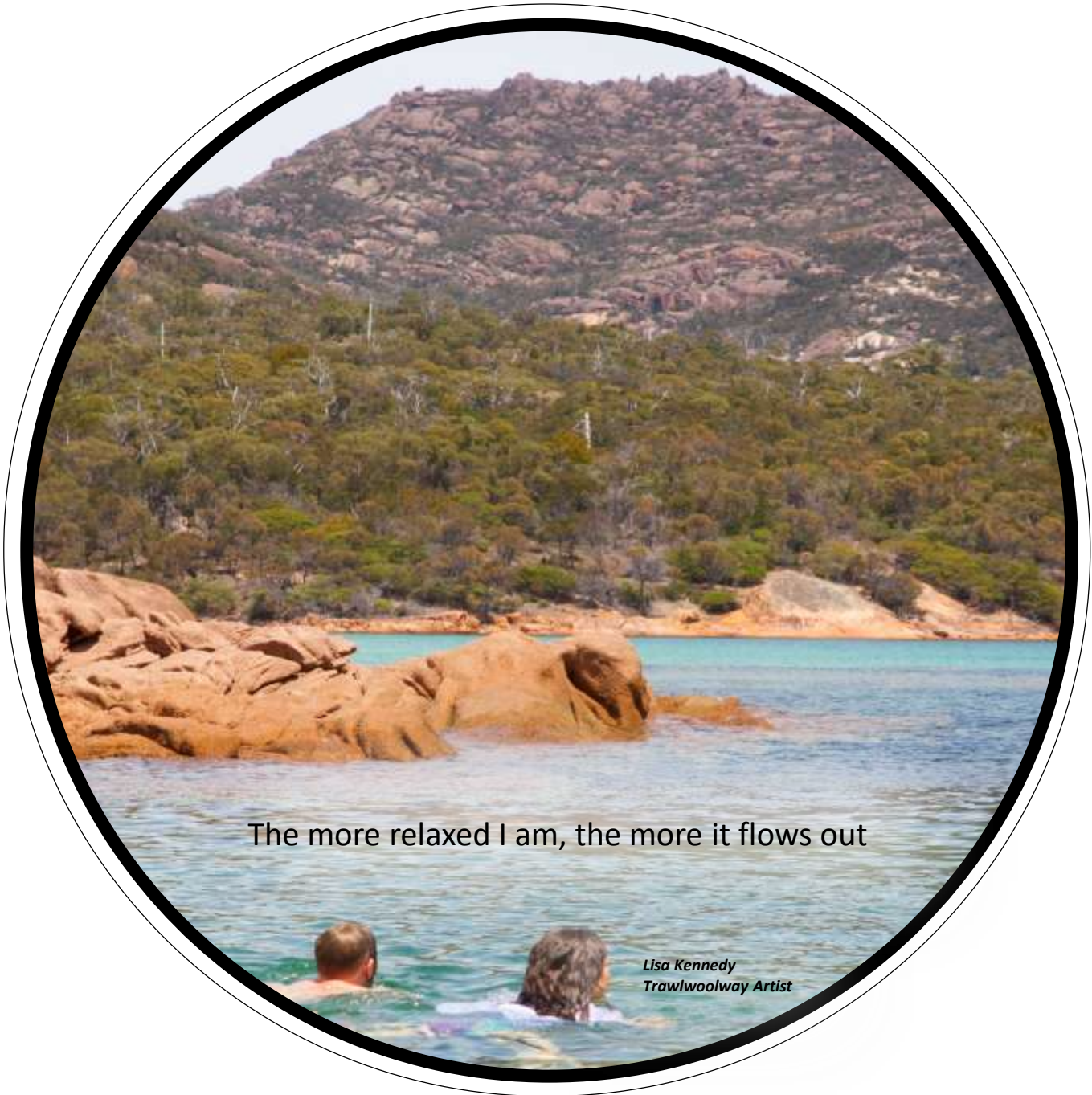


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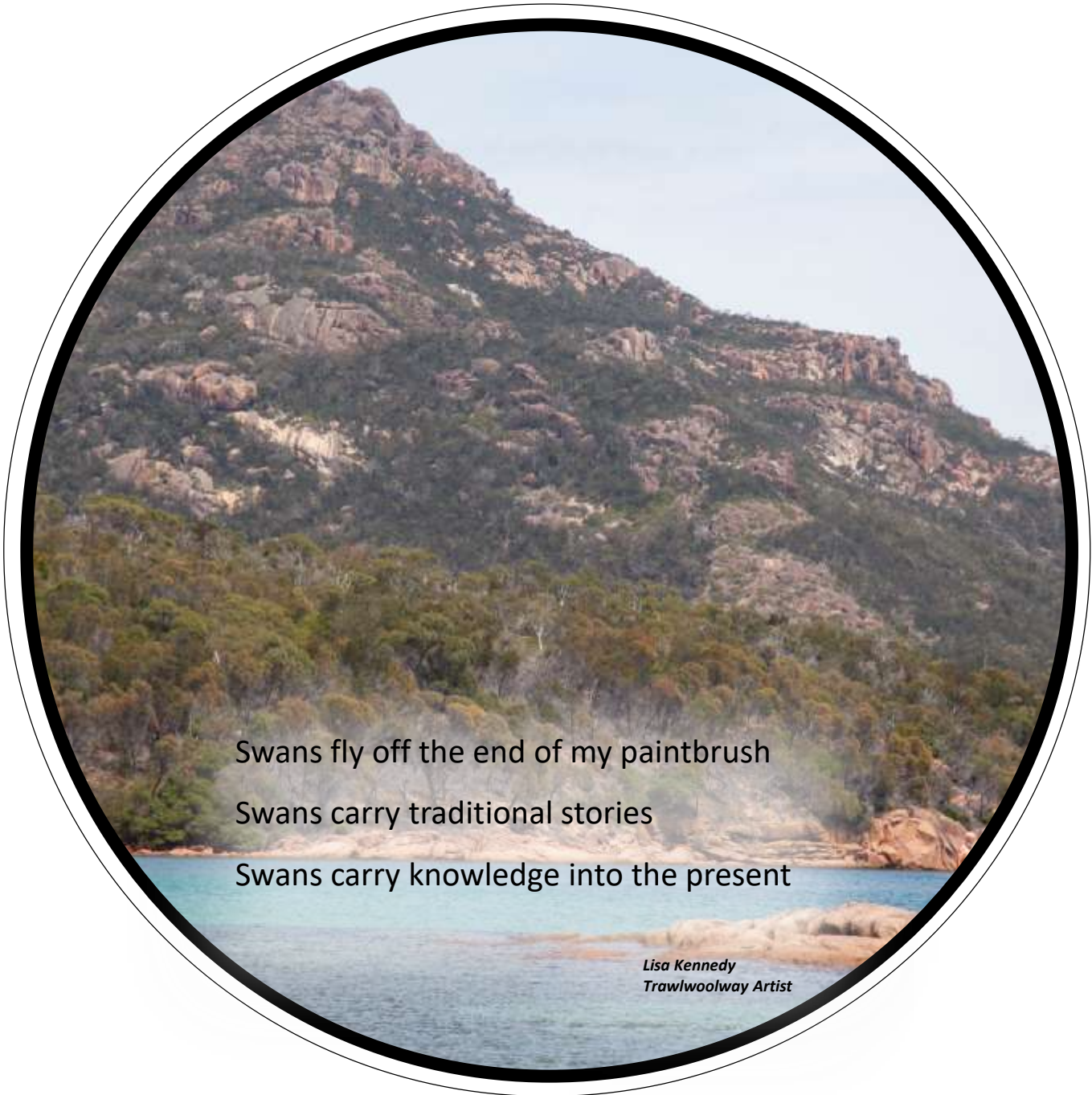
I don't paint with a sense of urgency
I feel very calm and in the moment

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The more relaxed I am, the more it flows out

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Swans fly off the end of my paintbrush
Swans carry traditional stories
Swans carry knowledge into the present

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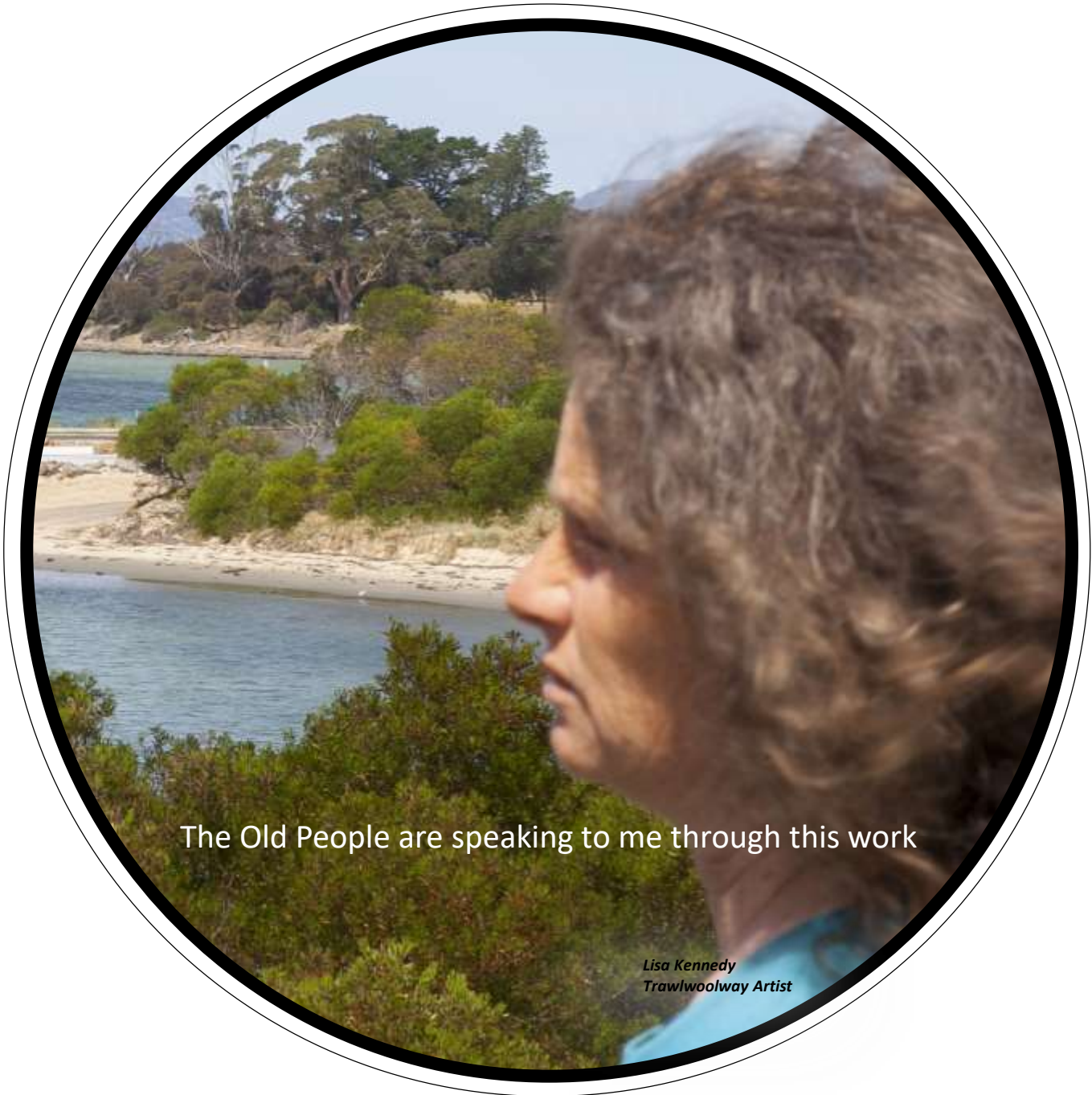


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The swans in my paintings are making an offer
Of timeless eternal connection

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The Old People are speaking to me through this work

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The Old People say 'Remember to listen'
There is a bigger Creative Spirit at work

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Trawlwoolway Artist



This work is about finding a language
To express what I have always known

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Trawlwoolway Artist



My paintings are about connecting
And are taking me into the future

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The stories are not lost

Nothing is lost

There is still hope

There is always hope

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There is a collapsing of past, present and future
The Old People do not want us to be stuck
In that place of sorrow
We need to let go of old stories that no longer serve

*Lisa Kennedy
Trawlwoolway Artist*

Paintings give me a language
To tell the stories that need to be told
The Old People know how important it is
To carry the stories into the future




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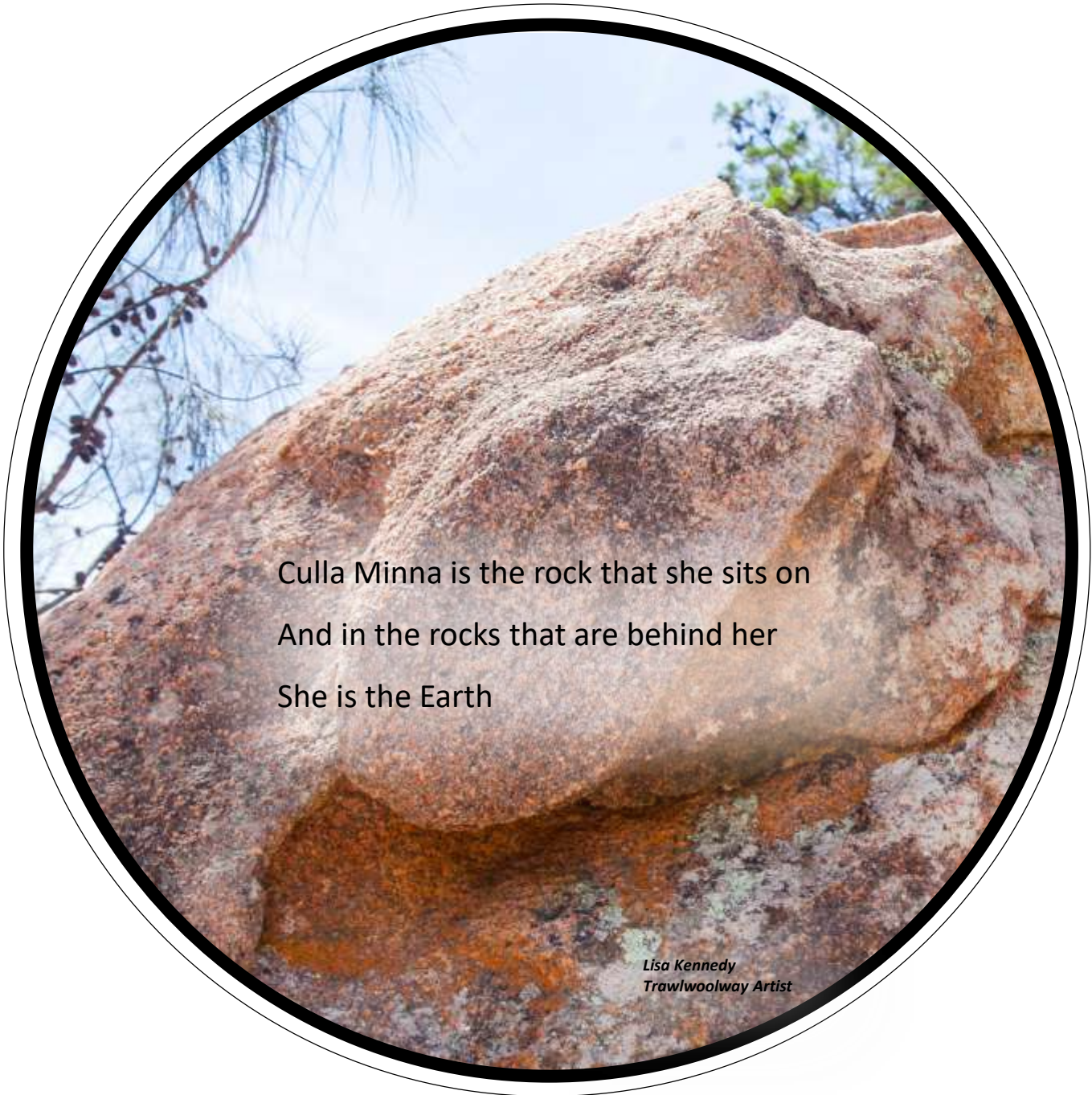
Culla Minna lies in the mountains surrounding the water
For me, she is embedded in the mountains
The collective mother is the Mother of All Life

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Culla Minna is an ever-changing presence in the land
And in the people
She is everywhere

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Culla Minna is the rock that she sits on
And in the rocks that are behind her
She is the Earth

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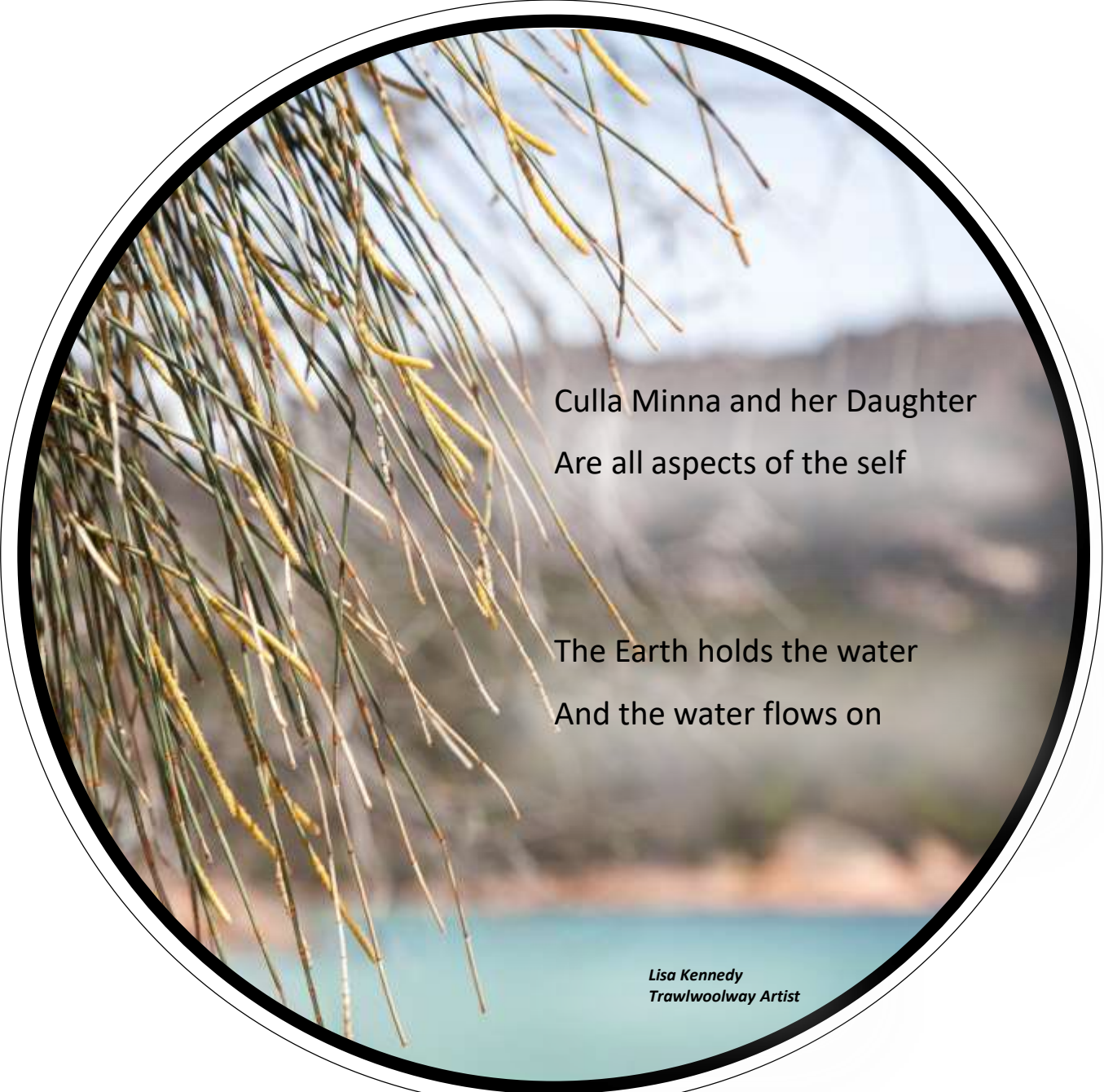
Culla Minna is the Mother for the swans
She cares for the swans
They, in turn, are her Mother

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The same is true of her Daughter
They are different but they work together
The Daughter reflects water and new life

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Culla Minna and her Daughter
Are all aspects of the self

The Earth holds the water
And the water flows on

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The Creative Spirit is bigger than us
It allows us to bring forward knowledge
From our own experience

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We learn most from being in nature and in life
Telling stories is one way of showing that

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Creative Spirit reveals things that have been hidden
While we are going about our individual lives
We can rest in it all and celebrate

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We are more connected than divided

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