

Mick Harding

Taungwurrung visual artist, wood sculptor and poet


Artwork/Words
Photography
Design

Mick Harding
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I belong to the Yowung-Illam-Baluk
and Yeerun-illam-baluk clan
from the Mansfield area.
My people are from the
Taungwurrung language group.

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Taungwurrung Artist*

A circular photograph showing two tree trunks in the foreground. Behind them is a wall covered in Indigenous Australian artwork, featuring a prominent zig-zag pattern in white and red. The scene is lit with warm, natural light.

There is an intimate
relationship between
my connection to Country,
my artwork, my language
and my poetry.

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A circular artwork featuring a close-up of weathered, greyish-brown driftwood with intricate, wavy textures. The wood is set against a dark background, creating a sense of depth and texture. The entire scene is framed by a double-lined circular border.

My Country is a text
that I refer to constantly
and intimately.

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When my bare feet touch the ground
I can feel the roots of the river redgum,
mountain ash, blackwood and the
grasslands connecting with me.

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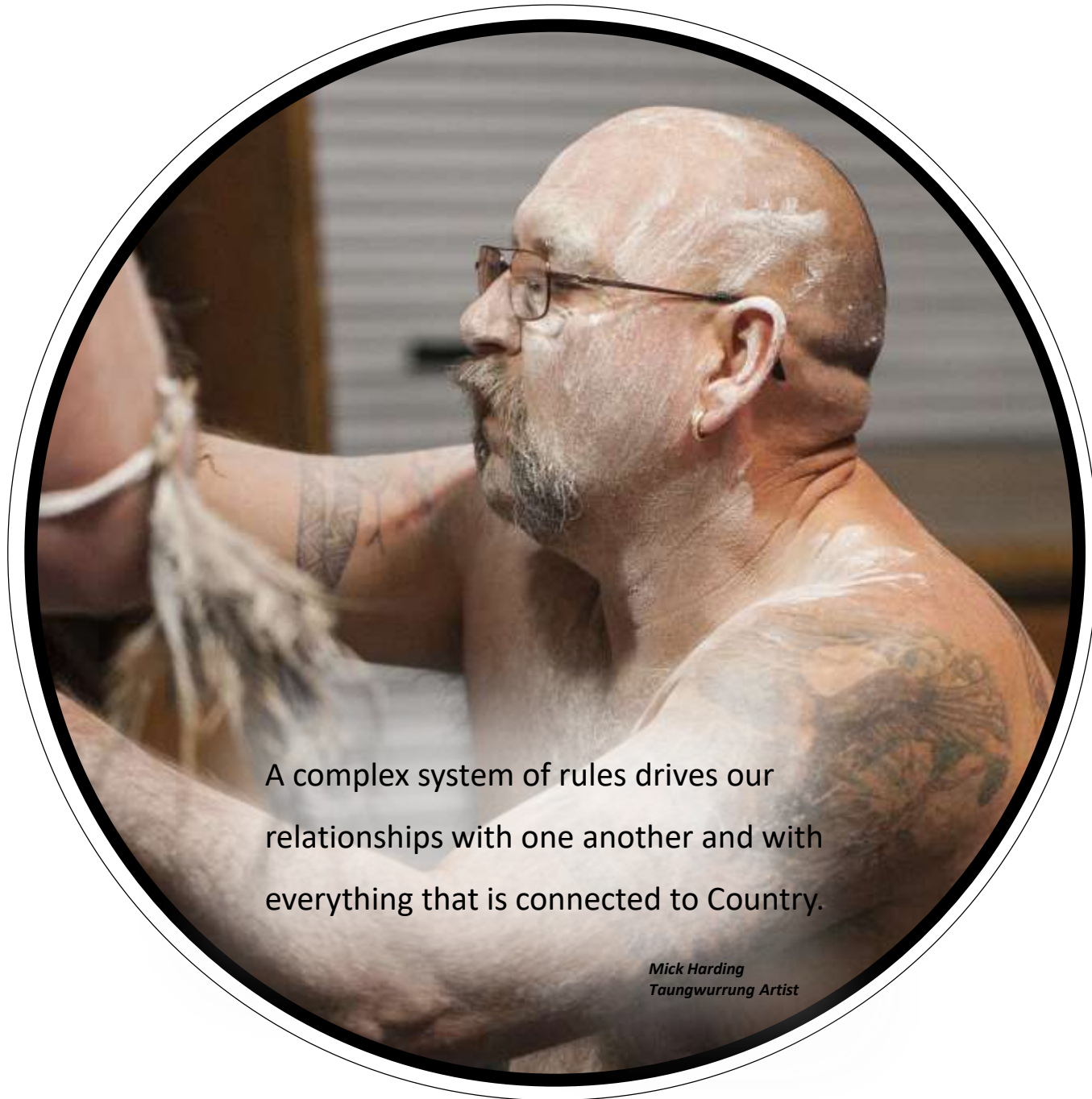
I have learned to appreciate the ties between the land, its flora and fauna and our responsibility to protect the land and maintain the intricate relationships that exist there.

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Our system of beliefs is underpinned by a philosophy that is rooted in trust and respect for one another and an understanding that obligations are reciprocal.

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A complex system of rules drives our
relationships with one another and with
everything that is connected to Country.

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We sing and dance the stories into the lines

We dream our way into the drawings


All our Ancestors are present

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As Aboriginal people, we are
expected to listen and learn
in a multi-sensory way.

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Our system of knowing is
grounded in the oral traditions
of Deep Listening.

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I draw so I can
listen properly.

Drawing helps me
listen to the
essence of what's
being said.

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In my artwork I portray a sensual experience
That weaves old knowledge
And fuses our ways of knowing into the modern world

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I draw my inspiration from the compelling legends of my people. I weave the images of those legends into each of my artworks.

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The line is the symbol in my artwork that connects me to Country and to my Ancestors.

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I have always loved wood
I am spellbound by bark and its beauty
Its colours, shapes and textures
The tree expressing itself

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If you let yourself sway to the rhythm of Mother Earth
Your soul will be energized
It will sing for joy with the sweetest sound

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You can play with light to create shade
And shade to create light
It's about living in two worlds

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It is a story of connection
My story is connected to the lines
From this world to the next

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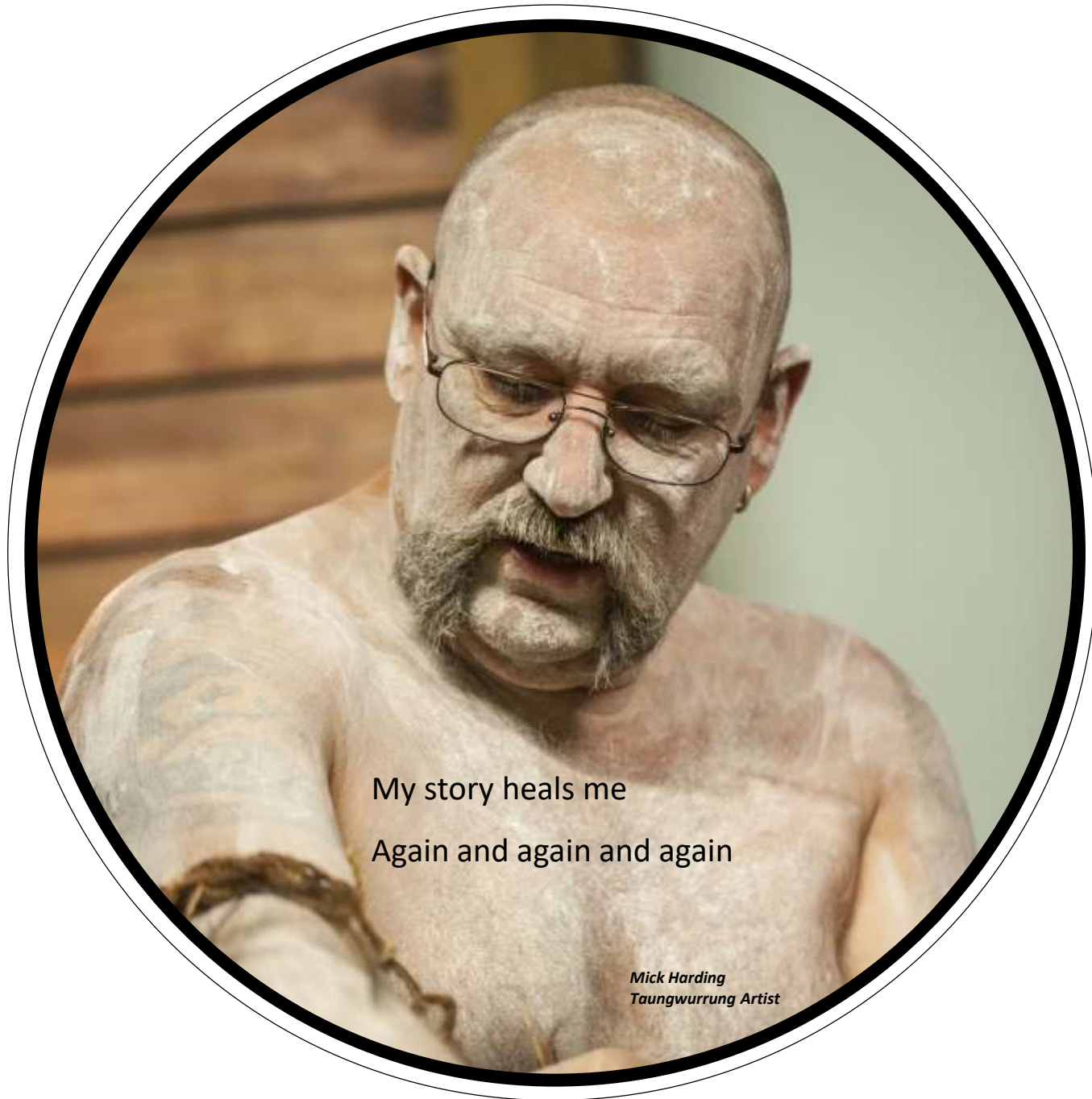


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I have moments when I feel
the Ancestors are helping
Guiding me
Sitting right beside me
I need to do justice to the
Struggles they lived through

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My story heals me
Again and again and again

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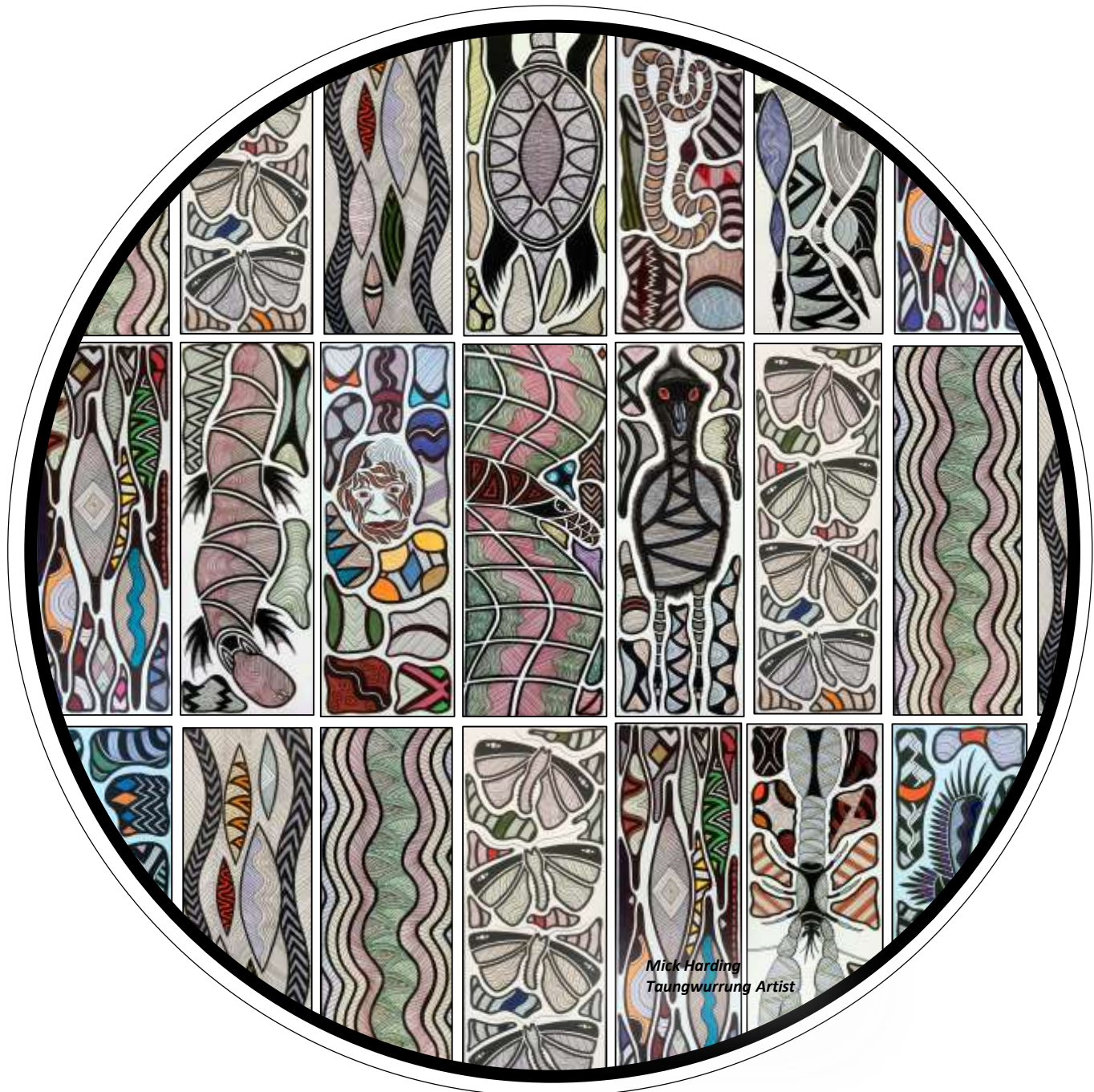
Art helps me to understand

Art helps me to heal

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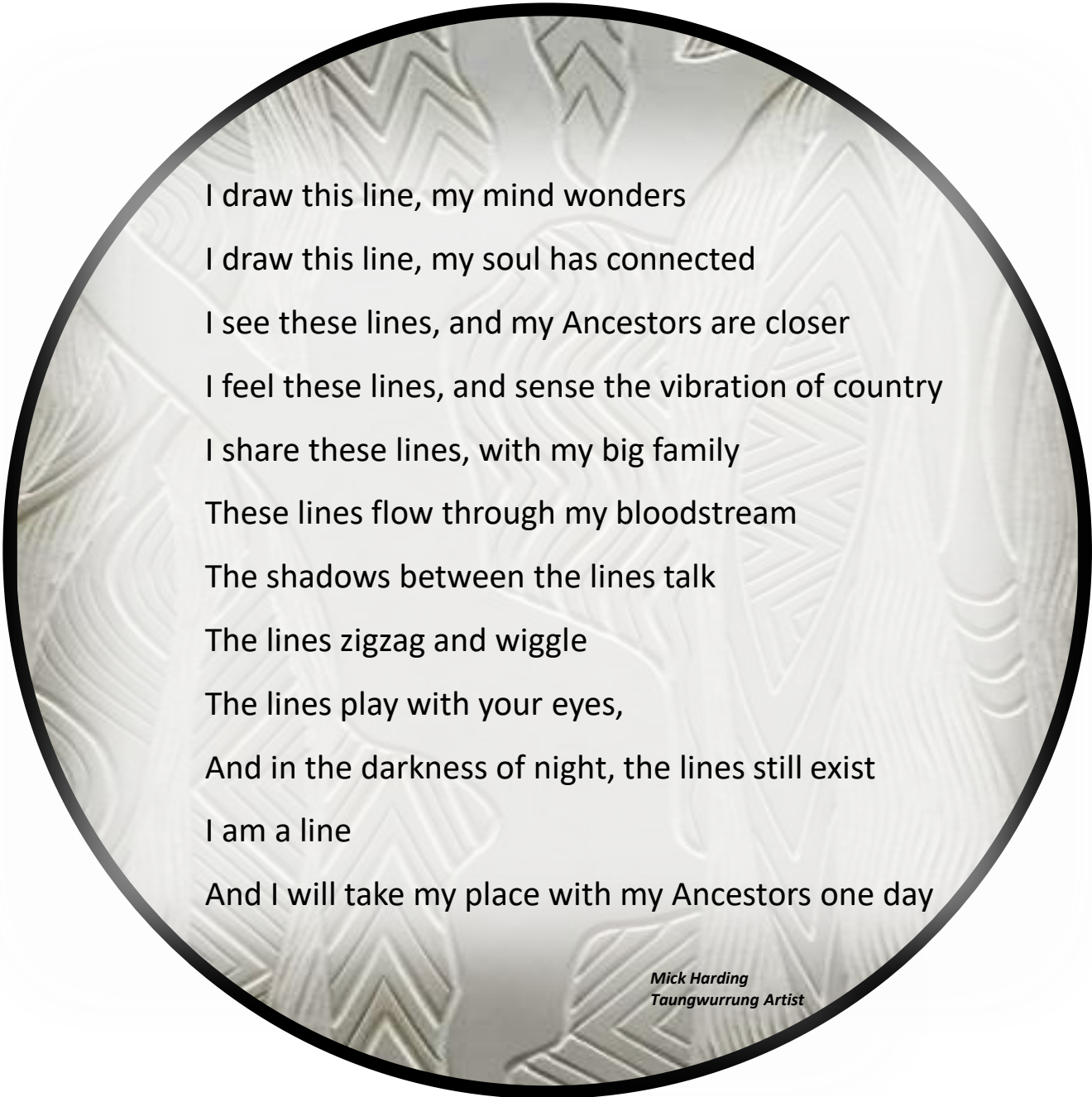
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I draw this line, my mind wonders
I draw this line, my soul has connected
I see these lines, and my Ancestors are closer
I feel these lines, and sense the vibration of country
I share these lines, with my big family
These lines flow through my bloodstream
The shadows between the lines talk
The lines zigzag and wiggle
The lines play with your eyes,
And in the darkness of night, the lines still exist
I am a line
And I will take my place with my Ancestors one day

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