



silhouette of memories

MiCHAEL PHiLP

1 September - 26 November 2023



TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY
& MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE

Silhouette of Memories is the exhibition outcome of Tweed Regional Gallery's inaugural Bundjalung award, presented to First Nations artist Michael Philp as part of the 2022 Wollumbin Art Award. Philp received the award for his painting *Pearly Shells*, 2022, which honoured his mother, aunty, and grandmother, and was the inspiration for this new body of work.

Philp's paintings in *Silhouette of Memories* kindly invite us into personal moments of a sentimental recollection. Each painting was created from a treasured memory or an old photograph and highlights Philp's strong connection to family and friends.

"What I was looking for in this body of work was interconnectedness through family ties. Some are stronger than others, and some storylines go back years and years, and demonstrate the ebb and flow of relationships that sometimes change and end, then restart again after many years."

Michael Philp, 2023



Michael Philp
Lois and Son 2023
acrylic on canvas
91 x 122 cm

"This piece is from an old photo of my mother and I, standing in our front yard at Kirra. My mums wearing a yellow dress. She loved dressing up, even if it was for just around the house."

\$5,500.00



Michael Philp

Brothers and Sisters 2023

acrylic on canvas

61 x 76.3 cm

\$2,500.00

"This painting is of my brother Mathew, my two sisters Monica and Aileen, and a little me. It was taken from a photo of us standing in our backyard."



Michael Philp

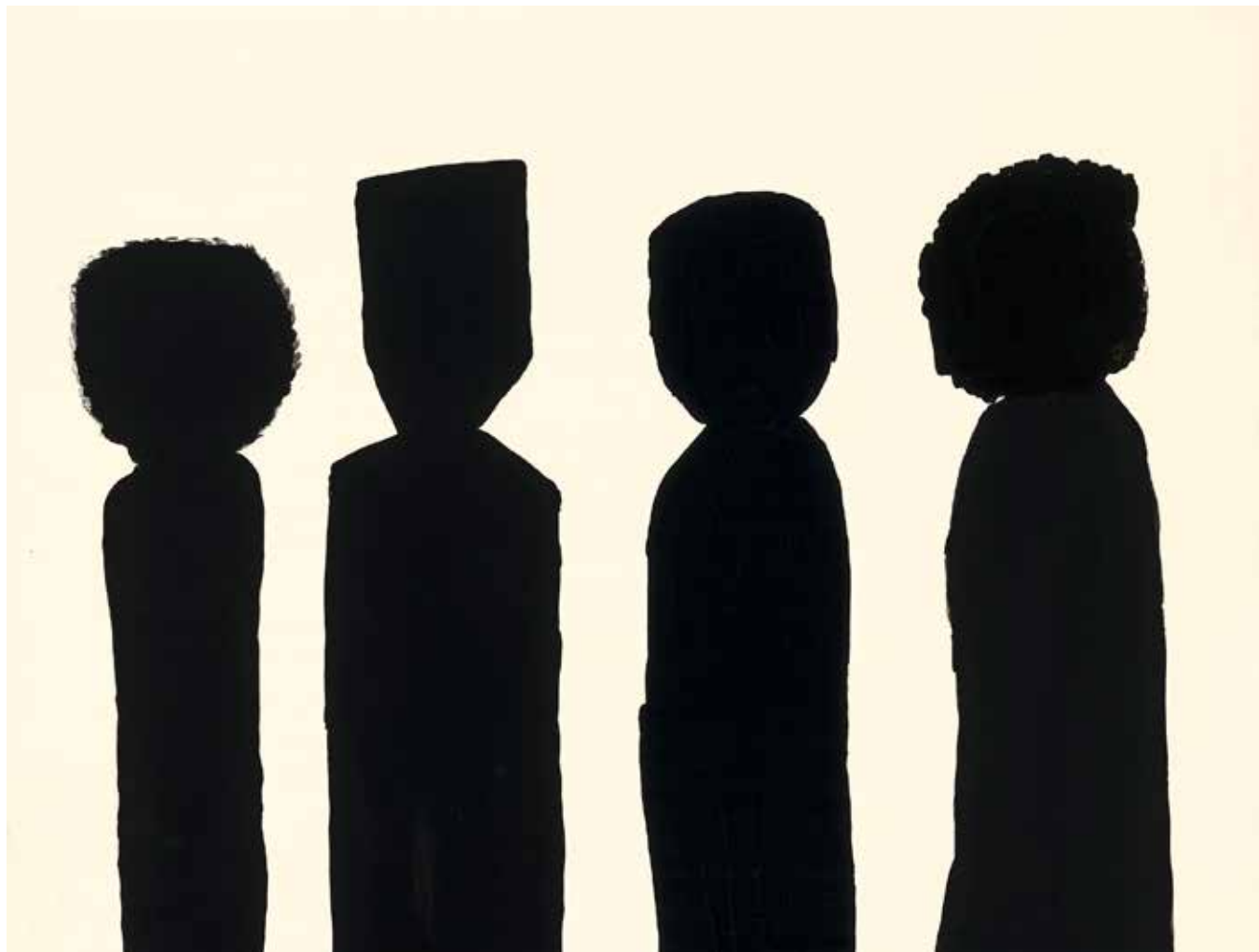
Mother and Sons 2023

acrylic on canvas

50.9 x 60.1 cm

\$2,000.00

"My brother Mathew and I with our mum. We had just come home from school. We were all pretty relaxed and smiling so we must have had a good day at school."



Michael Philp
My Old People 2023
acrylic on canvas
61 x 76.3 cm

"This is from a family photo of my great grandmother, two great Uncles and a great Aunty, all of which passed away before I was born."

\$2,500.00



Michael Philp

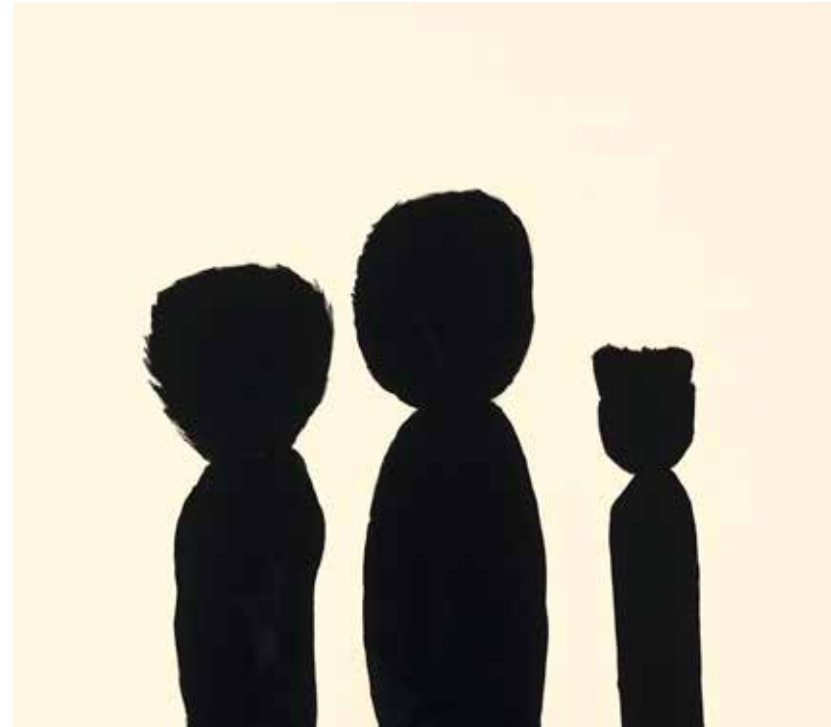
Brothers 2023

acrylic on canvas

50.9 x 60.1 cm

\$2,000.00

"This piece is of my brother Mathew and I, standing at the backyard of my sister's house at Palm Beach."



Michael Philp

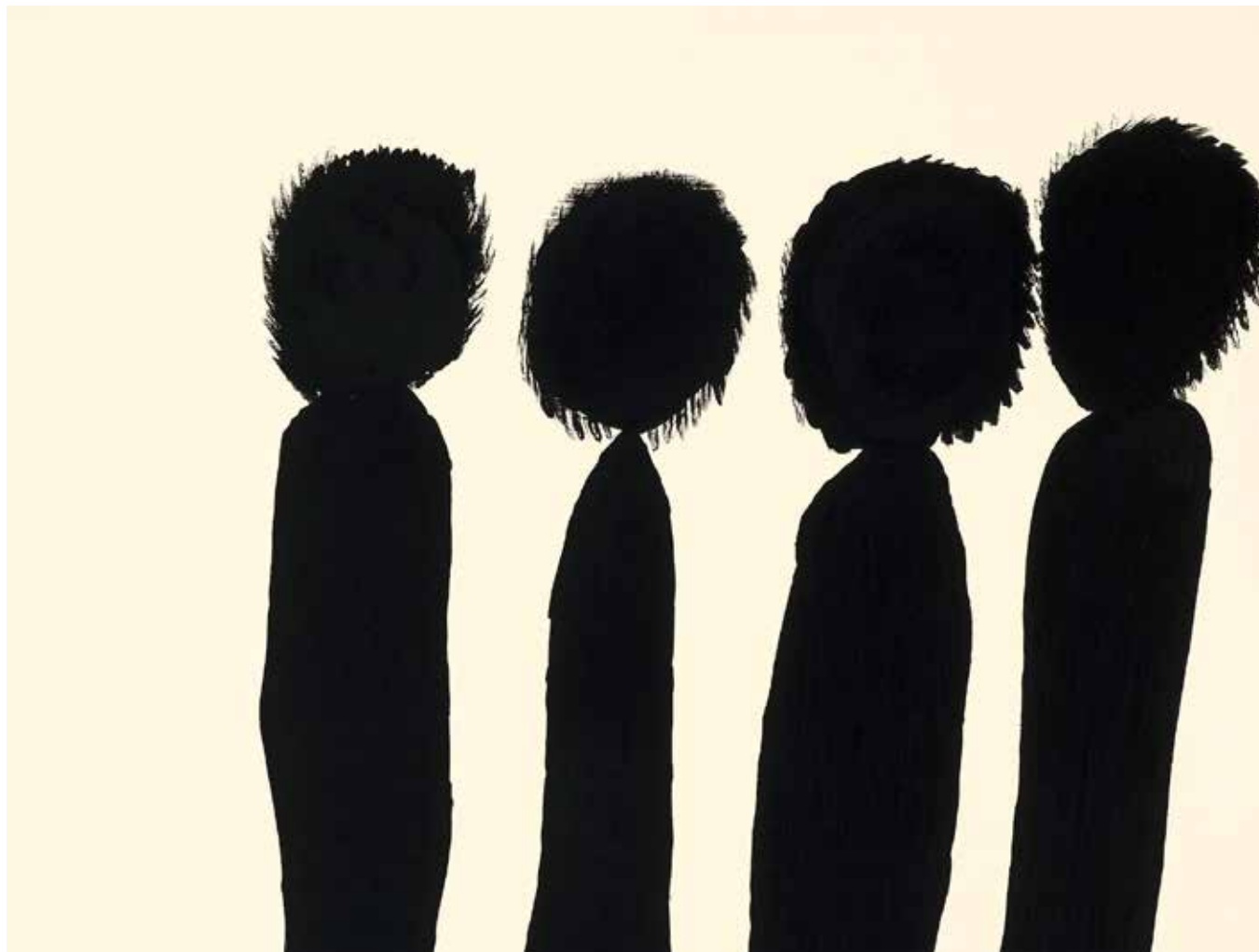
Mum, Monica and Michael 2023

acrylic on canvas

61 x 76.3 cm

\$2,500.00

"Taken from an old photo of us standing on stairs at our house at Miles Street Kirra."



Michael Philp
Sisters 2023
acrylic on canvas
61 x 76.3 cm

\$2,500.00

"This painting is of my sisters Marilyn, Margaret, Aileen and Monica. It was taken from a photograph of the girls at Kirra Beach."



Michael Philp

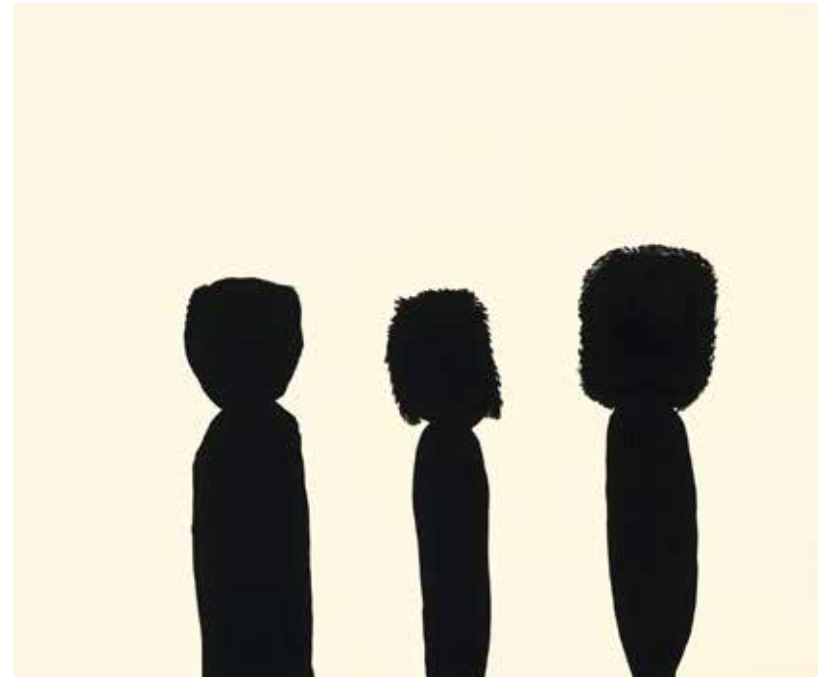
Aunty Norma 2023

acrylic on canvas

50.9 x 60.1 cm

\$2,000.00

"I always loved going to my Aunty's house. She was always cooking. She had a big family so anytime I got to play with my cousins, I knew that there would be a cake cooking or scones on the table. Maybe a chicken curry on the stove. She was always encouraging me to eat."



Michael Philp

My Nieces and Me 2023

acrylic on canvas

50.9 x 60.1 cm

\$2,000.00

"Taken from an old photo of my nieces and I at Kirra Beach. When we were kids, I spent a lot of time with these girls playing. It brought back good memories."



Michael Philp
Sea View 2023
acrylic on canvas
91 x 122 cm

"Growing up in Kirra, straight opposite the beach, I remember the view we had of the ocean. I'd wake up in the morning to my parents, drinking their cup of tea, looking out the window to the ocean. It was a nice thing to wake up to."

\$5,500.00



Michael Philp

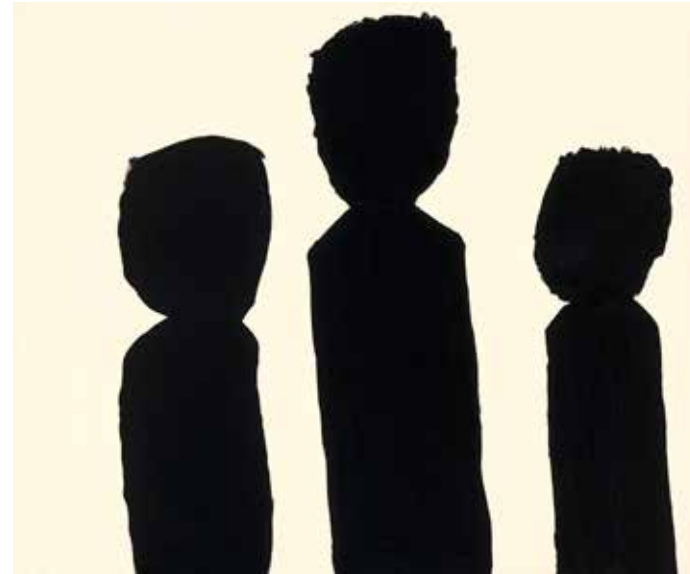
Hanging Out With My Cousin Francine 2023

acrylic on canvas

50.9 x 60.1 cm

\$2,000.00

"When I was in my teens, I always loved visiting my big cousin Francine. She loved a chat and a laugh. She didn't take herself too seriously, but she was a feisty woman."



Michael Philp

Uncles 2023

acrylic on canvas

50.9 x 60.1 cm

\$2,000.00

"This piece is of my three remaining uncles having a beer at the pub. They were tough buggers in their younger years and very strict. As a kid you knew your place. Even though they've mellowed somewhat, they still wouldn't put up with rubbish. ."



Michael Philp

Lois and Matt 2023

acrylic on canvas

50.9 x 60.1 cm

\$2,000.00

"This is from an old family photo of my mum and dad. I was told it was at a family wedding because they were dressed very smart. My father was in a suit which was a rare thing to see. They were both strong people with strong spirits."



Michael Philp

Chrissy and Briany 2023

acrylic on canvas

76.3 x 61 cm

\$2,500.00

"This piece comes from an old photo of my twin cousins Chris and Brian. I looked up to these two guys, especially in my teen years. They have both passed away now and I miss them dearly."



Michael Philp

Carl 2023

acrylic on canvas

50.9 x 60.1 cm

\$2,000.00

"Carl was my best mate as a teenager. We laughed and we fought over silly stuff like girls, who was the strongest, fastest, or brightest. Through all that we stayed mates. I haven't spoken to him in a long time but to me, he is still my best mate."



Michael Philp

Chicko 2023
acrylic on canvas
61 x 76.3 cm

\$2,500.00

"Chicko was a very good mate when I was growing up in Kirra. We were like brothers. Amazing surfer and guitar player."



Michael Philp

The Brekleman Boys 2023
acrylic on canvas
61 x 76.3 cm

\$2,500.00

"Gary and Terry Brekleman were guys I grew up with. They were a couple of years older than me. They were two fullas that I looked up to and admired. Good surfers and loved going fishing off the big groyne."



Michael Philp

Markie Cora 2023

acrylic on canvas

60.1 x 50.9 cm

\$2,000.00

"As a teenager, the main person I looked up to was my cousin Mark. We hung out a lot as teenagers, getting in lots of trouble, putting our parents through a lot of grief, but he always had my back."



Michael Philp

Hairy Man 2023

acrylic on canvas

60.1 x 50.9 cm

\$2,000.00

"My little cousin Graham had a nickname 'hairyman'. He had fuzzy bushy hair as a kid. As he got older, he had these ringlets. We were pretty close as kids, hanging out at our grandmother's house, getting up to mischief. It's funny these days, he's totally bald."



Michael Philp is a contemporary aboriginal artist from the Tweed Caldera. He grew up on the Tweed Coast, his mum an aboriginal woman and his father a white fisherman. Much of Michael's youth was spent at the seaside or on the river. It was a place to connect with his dad, to spend time with friends and sometimes to reflect in solitude. This coastal landscape of his childhood features regularly in his current works.

With his signature minimalist style, Michael tells the story of his people from a modern-day perspective. His work explores themes around identity, connection to land, connection to his people, and his own personal memories of his family history, within the Tweed community.

Michael started painting later in life but was recognised early on in his career with a commendation in the 2009 NSW Parliament Art Prize. His art has been exhibited in solo and group shows across NSW, including Sydney and is nationally recognised and collected.

Today, Michael enjoys giving back to the community through art workshops. He is passionate about sharing the healing power of art with others. Michael has facilitated groups at local schools, aboriginal communities, community organisations for youth, in conjunction with Lismore Regional Gallery, Northern Rivers Community Gallery, Southern Cross University and Byron School of Art.

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