

# 200 GEORGE

## Using creativity to inspire a sense of place

### PUBLIC ART

Throughout the planning and construction phase for 200 George Street, Mirvac worked closely with a number of leading artists and art organisations. These partnerships have resulted in a number of public art installations throughout the precinct. The diverse display of public art is designed to celebrate the history and heritage of the site, carve out a unique identity for the precinct and inspire pride of place among its community.

#### **NGARUNGA NANGAMA lobby artwork**

The most prominent public art piece at 200 George Street is a 300 square metre masterpiece from well-known Indigenous artist, Judy Watson. Judy was commissioned by Mirvac to create artwork for the lobby of the building.

The title of the artwork is NGARUNGA NANGAMA, which means Calm Water Dream. Judy Watson consulted with Gadigal Elder, Uncle Allen Madden, to create the design, which is crafted from sandstone excavated from beneath the building during construction and celebrates the heritage of the area, reflecting the pre-settlement Sydney shoreline.

Early maps of the area are carved into the sandstone and overlaid with imagery including water, text and objects from the excavation of the site. Painted lines of shells are included in the artwork, which represent Indigenous shell middens. Shell middens are places where the debris from eating shellfish were accumulated. Early colonists burnt the shells to extract lime, which was used for mortar in the early buildings, linking the buildings with the indigenous past.

The artwork's watery, light effects are a reference to the Tank Stream that once ran parallel with George Street. The new building straddles the banks of the Tank Stream at first settlement and the water also pays tribute to the two water wells which were discovered in the basement of the building during their demolition. The lighting, which will occur in the evenings as the sun sets on the artwork, references the water beneath the ground to create a living water element.

A large round granite stone was found in the Tank Stream that is represented in the artwork with a 3D rounded form protruding from the wall. The original purpose of

#### **QUICK FACTS**

- › NGARUNGA NANGAMA means Calm Water Dream
- › It is 300 square metres
- › It is carved from sandstone excavated from the site during construction
- › It celebrates the Indigenous history of the site
- › The artwork took 12 months to create

the stone is not definitively known but it is thought the stone may have originally been used as either a bottle stopper or may have been an indigenous hand tool.

Ceramic shards and other artefacts such as coins and buttons found during the excavation process are represented in the artwork and a series of impressions lining the entry portal to the mid and high rise lift lobbies.