

“A Woman’s Dreaming”

by Sharon McAvoy (2007)



Medium: Sand and acrylic on canvas

Artist statement

Female energy and women’s business

The female energies are promoted by the feminine colours flowing throughout the painting. It is especially important to all women to feel that breast cancer is a female issue and to recognise that only female health professionals are involved in this process. For women to be assembled as a group together is an ancient method of communication, which has been proven for thousands of years as the most effective way of dealing with women’s business.

Sense of passion for sharing and caring

From the painting a sense of passion can be felt through the women coming together to share their journeys and understandings of breast cancer. The large U shapes symbolize the women and the smaller the apricot u shapes in the top of the painting represent our children. The message is that it is important that we not only care for ourselves and each other, but to care for our children is a significant issue also.

Informing and supporting others and family (education kit)

The white dots throughout the painting are the messages (education kits) about the importance of breast cancer screening. The black paths on the inside of the dots represent the carrying of this message throughout the communities.

Increase awareness of breast cancer screening

The painting depicts three U shapes, apricot representing the Indigenous women, blue representing the Torres Strait and pink representing South Sea. The solid purple represents the women’s breast and the main focus point for increasing the awareness of early detection of breast cancer.

Breaking down the barriers to talk about breast cancer screening

Addressing the issue of breast cancer and the importance of being screened for breast cancer is being broken down by the visual images and the cultural appropriateness of the painting. When our women see this image, it will encourage them to read the information relayed through the pamphlets. Stories were also a means of communication through visual images and this is breaking down the initial barrier of being informed.

Connection between physical, emotional, and spiritual health

The foundation of the painting is sand, which represents mother earth (the giver of life). Mother Earth connects the mind, body, and spirit. The connection occurs with the physical being the women, the emotional being the lines across the bottom of the painting, and the spiritual being the purple colour throughout the painting.

A focus on well-woman, not illness

The bush berries and witchety grubs are placed in the painting to symbolise the necessity of eating healthy and to focus on wellbeing.

Reflect the female focus of the Program (for females, by female health professionals) through the new logo and its feminine colours (pink/mauve/purple)

“Women taking care of Women” is an aspect that is represented throughout this painting by the colours which are used, to enforce the feeling of femininity.