

Contemporary Fine Art

369 Elizabeth Street

North Hobart

Tasmania 7000 Australia

T: +61 (0)3 6231 6511

F: +61 (0)3 6231 6521

E: [info@bettgallery.com.au](mailto:info@bettgallery.com.au)

W: [bettgallery.com.au](http://bettgallery.com.au)

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#### HAYLEY MILLAR-BAKER - BIOGRAPHY

*My practice revolves around forced assimilation, not just during colonisation, but today. I watch country being dug up every day for the new housing estates. Country I grew up on, Country that I have a deep connection to, Country that talks to me. The magnificence of land and all that originates from it will be hard to find soon under all the concrete roads and buildings. Like my mother has always said 'I can't breathe around all this concrete' – Hayley Millar-Baker*

Hayley Millar-Baker is of Gunditjmara, Brazilian, Anglo-Indian, and European (Scottish and English) descent from Victoria, Australia. Her practice is influenced and informed by her Koorie heritage and her own experience, existing in a contemporary urban culture. Her connection to culture is inherent to her contemporary practice that explores themes of displacement, alienation, suppression, and social confinement representations of Indigenous presence in aim of opening-up digital visual gateways for new narratives to take form. She utilises the mediums of photography, painting and installation to layer personal imagery and anthropomorphic representations of Indigenous presence in aim of opening-up digital visual gateways for new narratives to take form.

Hayley can often be found on the road with a camera in hand, exploring landscapes and capturing moments on Country. As a Gunditjmara artist born on Wathaurong land, she is well versed in the complexities of identity that stem from growing up Aboriginal in a contemporary urban culture. This experience, in life and learning, fuel Hayley's contemporary practice. Drawing inspiration from her embodied connection to the land of her ancestors and her birth Country, Hayley directs her lens in a way that reveals introspective re-imaginings of her story, her culture.