

I am Mountain

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kunanyi is a mountain in Tasmania, Australia. It has great significance for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples. kunanyi towers over my studio and my making, thinking and learning. I live in the shadow of its story and am learning to honour, include and celebrate its perspectives. The poem that I have presented carves out my connection to the mountain and its physical presence whilst the painterly image shared tells the story of the woman who lies in the mountain. This story was shared with me in learning on country sessions on the mountain and was told to me by a traditional custodian. On these learning days, he told me that the mountain is a living story and that kunanyi is our mother earth spirit and our healer. He told me that when you look at kunanyi you can see mother earth lying down. Hearing words and stories from First Nations perspectives in Tasmania has inspired me to compose and share a song that embodies the creative spirit of the trees, the moon and the stars and sings of the creatures and ancestral spirits that live alongside the mountain. The mountain's story song shares moments that begin on the mountain, travel down the river and carry meaning into the sea.

Poem

I am Mountain

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I am wind

I am story.

I am etched in rock.

I am cave,

I am gap

I am precipice

I am void.

I am mountain

I am song.

Painting

In the Mountain She Sleeps



Mountain Story Lyrics

Trowenna
My heart shaped island
Moinee My shining star
Rina Dina Rain comes falling
Down the rivulet
On the other side
Punywin and Venna
will be my guides.

Tara Monadro
The mountain's story
Wind and water move the land aside
Songs they place you
in shining stories
oonah's magic on the river's tide
feel her power from deep inside.

Sing the darkness
From your fire
Keep it burning
Never tire
Bring the lanterns
Light and story
down the rivulet on an ancient glide

All the children will be at your side.
All the children will be at your side
All the children will be at your side.

Mountain Story Song (The audio recording is available via the following link)

https://era-av.library.ualberta.ca/media_objects/avalon:42851