

# *Longing and Belonging*

**16 August – 12 October 2024**

## **Artist Statement**

### **Monique Van Nieuwland**

*In my Pocket, Great Aunty Bé, Thio Yianni*

I wove three ghost-like images of 'handkerchiefs' embedded in a fine monofilament base cloth. During the weaving process I used supplementary threads in the warp and weft direction to create the handkerchiefs. The smallest piece includes a transfer print of an illustration from an iconic children's book from my country of birth ("Jip en Janneke").

The 'handkerchiefs' are memories of my youth, family and friends that I left behind when I immigrated to Australia.

At an emotional level they symbolise the deep sense of loss I still experience at times, despite a full and joyful life here in Australia.

After more than forty years, 'Longing' and 'Belonging' continue their dance in my life...

*Everyone Everywhere (my woven Magna Carta)*

The 'Magna Carta' (2015) is considered the first document to outline civil/human rights.

My woven Magna Carta depicts images of basic needs to be able to live a full life, including physical and cultural needs.

I translated drawings into a damask weave structure and wove these into a long, lace edged scroll on my Jacquard loom.

The heart and brain are woven in a different colour, to emphasise that the heart and mind are involved in all decisions.

Many people face displacement because their human rights are not met.