

Longing and Belonging

16 August – 12 October 2024

Artist Statement

I wish there will be a time that everyone can be born free and equal with full dignity and rights...

Pinal Maniar

This diptych explores the immigrant experience through two symbolic elements. The "happy wanderer" (*Hardenbergia violacea*), native to Australia, represents grounding in a new land. Flowering in winter and spring, its winding vines embody adaptability in unfamiliar soil. The plant's vibrant blooms symbolise the enrichment immigrants bring to their new homes. The bar-tailed godwit, known for its long-distance flight from Alaska to Tasmania, symbolises the undeniable drive behind migration. This threatened bird represents the courage to navigate vast distances, mirroring the motivation of those who leave the familiar for unknown shores. The rooted plant and far-flying bird create a visual dialogue about the immigrant experience: establishing new roots while feeling the pull of distant horizons. Through this juxtaposition, the artwork invites reflection on adaptability, perseverance, and the universal quest for belonging in our interconnected world.