



Titled '*Steadfast*' and inspired by the Vixens' values of **fearlessness, togetherness** and **resilience**, this piece of art features on the Melbourne Vixens' home and away dresses for the 2023-24 Suncorp Super Netball seasons.

The artwork was designed by Samantha Richards, a Wurundjeri / Dja Dja Wurrung woman from the Melbourne and Bendigo regions respectively.

Samantha creates digital, canvas and mural artworks utilising traditional symbols and contemporary styles to share culture visually in the public space. She also runs a business teaching Indigenous culture to students in childcare and school environments.

"Sharing culture is something I am very passionate about, as it is important to learn about the people that lived on this land in the past, and the people that live here today."

Steadfast uses a layering of traditional Wurundjeri symbols to depict the strength of a team, combining to tell the story of the elements involved in building up from where the Vixens began, to where they are now and who they will be in the future.

Supported by the protection (diamonds), strength (double circles) and knowledge (single circle) of their teammates and past players, the Vixens team and the people that have travelled with them along the journey (wavy line with dots) have worked to become what the team is today.

The river in the background represents the flow of change and the ability to adapt (river) and the mountains show that the team has each other's backs (mountains back-to-back). These two elements also represent the landscape of Melbourne and the connection the Vixens have to it.

From teamwork, moving forward with the support of fans and building each other up with the different strengths and knowledge of each team member, *Steadfast* represents these key building blocks in creating a successful team.



Samantha Richards

