

AUDIO DESCRIPTION | DANIE MELLOR

This audio file describes the artwork *How I wish you were here*, created by Danie Mellor.

Danie Mellor is a Ngadjon, Mamu and Jirrbal artist, born in 1971.

Made from reclaimed steel, this vertically oriented wall-mounted sculpture measures nearly 80 centimetres high, 38 centimetres wide and is 7.5 centimetres deep.

At first glance, the work resembles a shield. Its surface is a rich blend of rusted browns, charcoal black and dark grey that follow natural patterns of oxidation. The steel is heavily weathered. Dents, scratches, corrosion and areas of uneven wear suggest the material's previous life as the lid of a traveller's trunk.

The sculpture has an elongated oval form. Its entire perimeter is defined by a subtle, serrated edge, suggesting it has been cut from a larger object.

Approximately 9 centimetres in from the top and bottom of the work, a horizontal seam spans the width of the sculpture. Here, two sheets of steel have been joined and folded together, revealing an old metal-working technique that predates welding.

The left and right sides of the sculpture curve gently towards the wall. This creates a shallow convex profile that would wrap protectively around the body if carried.

Across the central two-thirds of the sculpture, shallow horizontal ridges also span the object. They create a regular corrugated surface. Six bolt heads are arranged in three evenly spaced pairs down the centre, punctuating the ridged surface.

The steel has a strong tactile quality. It appears rough and pitted where rust has formed, while smoother worn areas catch the light with a muted metallic sheen. The reclaimed material, hand-worked construction and shield-like form give the object a powerful physical presence.