



Purple spotted gudgeons

The Purple spotted gudgeon, *Mogurnda adspersa*, is a small attractive fish, commonly growing 6–12cm in length. They are found in slow-moving or still waters of rivers, creeks and billabongs, generally amongst weeds, rocks or snags. Gudgeons feed on small crustaceans, insects, worms, small fishes, and some plant material. They breed in summer when the water is warmer, laying sticky eggs on rocks and logs. The male performs an elaborate courtship display to attract the female. The male then looks after the eggs, guarding and fanning them with his fins until they hatch. The eggs are fanned to ensure that sediment does not build up and smother the young fish before they can hatch.

This gudgeon is found in coastal streams and in the Murray–Darling Basin. In the Basin, their population has dropped significantly, and this fish has been lost from whole catchments. This has been caused by both damming and use of river water and the introduction of alien fish species. The gudgeon is now a threatened species.

About the artist

Kristie Peters is a Wiradjuri woman from southern New South Wales and was born in Bathurst in 1980. Kristie is a twin from a large family of 15 brothers and sisters, and now resides in Canberra with her partner, six young children, and family.

Kristie's style is a mix of contemporary and traditional, creating eye-catching artworks. She completed her Certificate IV in Aboriginal Art and Fashion Design at the Yaruna Centre, Canberra Institute of Technology and is now painting as a profession.