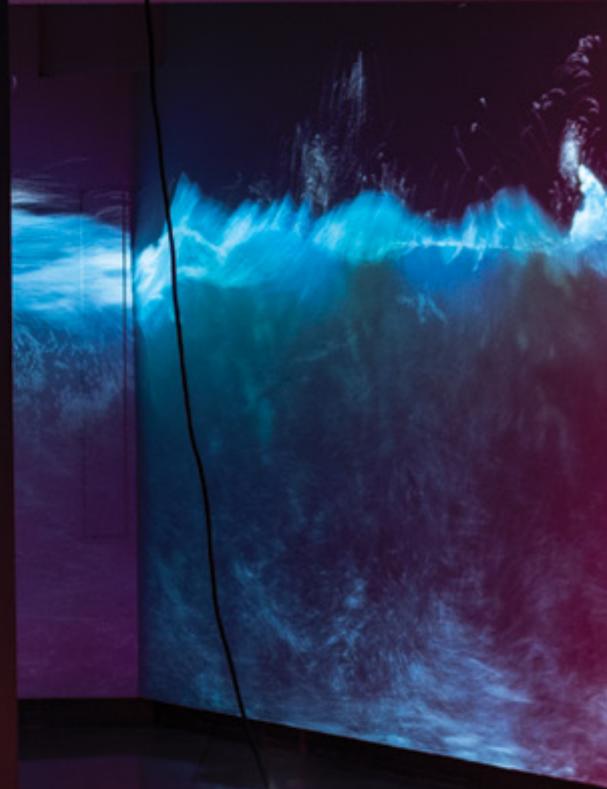




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WE ACKNOWLEDGE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF COUNTRY AND HONOUR ELDERS; PAST, PRESENT AND EMERGING

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander viewers are advised that this publication contains the names and images of people deceased

## CONTENTS

VISION	04
2021 AT A GLANCE	05
CHAIR'S MESSAGE	06
DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE	09
EXHIBITIONS	13
ON TOUR	32
PUBLIC ART	33
PUBLIC PROGRAMS & EDUCATION	35
DIGITAL ADAPTATION	36
STAFF TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	39
ARTSWORKER TRAINING	40
YOUTH ARTS PATHWAYS PROGRAM	41
ARTISTS AND ARTSWORKERS	43
CAREER PATHWAYS	46
NORTHSITE STORE	48
MARKETING	53
STATISTICS	55
ORGANISATION	56
GOVERNANCE	57
FINANCIALS	60
PARTNERSHIPS	62

## VISION



NorthSite is a catalyst for visual culture...  
 We forge ideas, link artists and audiences  
 to showcase the best contemporary art  
 and design from **Tropical North Queensland  
 and the remote and regional communities  
 of Cape York and the Torres Strait**  
 ...to inspire conversations and evoke  
 transformational experiences.”

Cover and previous spread:  
 Yandell Walton, *Shifting Surrounds*,  
 at NorthSite Contemporary Arts,  
 2021  
 Photo: Michael Marzik

## 2021 AT A GLANCE



24  
Exhibitions



320  
Artists



17  
Films and Live Recordings



55  
Artworkers



98  
Arts Training &  
Development Programs



42  
Volunteers



187  
New Works Exhibited.  
547 total artworks exhibited.



63%  
of contracted Artworkers  
identified as Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander



150  
High Quality Programs

### ROSEY CUMMINGS

*Weaving workshop at NorthSite Contemporary Arts*

Photo: Rosie Miller



## CHAIR'S MESSAGE



“...Our successes in 2021 are testament to our artists and our team - their innovation and dedication...”

If 2020 was a year like no other, 2021 wasn't much of an improvement. Fortunately we weathered the storm despite attendance levels being lower than all time lows. Some of the events we had planned had to be cancelled or significantly scaled back but we were able to persevere and continued to deliver most activities planned and support artists.

The pandemic disruptions put pressure on our incredible NorthSite team led by Ashleigh Campbell with Rebecca Youdell, Jamie Clarke, Rosie Miller, Lauren Carter, Jamaylya Ballangarry-Kearins and Aven Noah Jr yet it's a testament to their dedication and innovation that we were able to end the year on a solid note, reporting an increase in net profit from \$62K to \$180K mainly off the back of solid trading at the NorthSite Store and delivery of major art consultancies. This success puts money directly into the pockets of artists in the region.

Despite the set-backs and compromises, the year hit some high notes with the Donna Davis' exhibition *When a Tree Falls* and Yandell Walton's impressive digital installations forming the *Shifting Surrounds* exhibition. Both of these exhibitions take on pertinent issues of climate change and impact on species, through collaboration with scientists in this region. The latter was an exciting multimedia work exploring how it will look and feel as our time runs out. It is rewarding to see our growing team executing a technically challenging installation. The Art+Science panel discussions produced to widen engagement are available as filmed recordings, which continue to be accessed online and provide valuable records and contributions to the global conversations.

I was disappointed that I didn't get to see Robert Tommy Pau's exhibition *Torres Strait Enlightenment*, a new series of prints and paintings commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Coming of the Light. From all accounts it was splendid. This was a particular highlight for the Board as it was so skilfully curated by Aven Noah Jr who recently joined the NorthSite team as Curator. Other standout exhibitions by Aven included *The World Around Us*, a KickArts Collection show presented through mentorship with Teho Ropeyarn and the dramatic installation of Mornington Island's major exhibition *Legacies Living On*. A shame that the CIAF audiences weren't able to travel to Cairns and experience this exhibition. The year's highlight for me was Lenore Howard's breathtaking exhibition *Beyond the Sight of Land*, through which we entered a far-away realm where adventure and unpredictability were the backdrop - an extraordinary achievement and an enormous body of work by one of Cairns' longstanding artists.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the year we had planned didn't quite eventuate in terms of public programs, engagement and visitation, but we were able to make great progress in strengthening our financial position, strengthening partnerships, undertaking consultancy work and building our professional team.

Through a paid internship program, supported by the Queensland Government's *Youth and Arts Pathways* we were able to hire three emerging artworkers, one of whom has gone onto securing a permanent position with NorthSite and another engaged as a project curator.

Innovative trade and partnerships drove a solid end of year result. Credit for this must go to our agile team of dedicated professionals led by Ashleigh. I would also like to acknowledge



strengthening our financial position through partnerships and consultancy work and building our professional team”

the NorthSite Board for its time and dedication over 2021 and single out Michael Marzik who filled the shoes of the Director whilst on maternity leave. I would like to thank Brian Robinson and Julie Poulsen for their support and dedication as Board Members and artists supportive of this organisation over many years. Many thanks also to Simone Arnol for the support she gave the Board during her brief directorship appointment. It was marvellous to welcome two new Board Members John Stafford and Francoise Lane at the end of 2021.

On behalf of the NorthSite Board, I would like to thank the Queensland Government and Arts Queensland, Australia Council for the Arts, Ian Potter Foundation, and John T Reid Trusts for their support over these challenging years 2021 and beyond. This support allows NorthSite to implement our vision and strategic plan to be an unparalleled Australian contemporary arts institution in North Queensland.

We also gratefully acknowledge our sponsors, supporters and patrons with notable reference to Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort. We acknowledge and express our gratitude to our dedicated volunteers who have assisted NorthSite by contributing their valuable time and energy.

Finally, a shout out to those artists, technicians, and the young folks of IndigeDesign Labs who brought some insightful designs to the LED façade at Bulmba-ja, a digital public-art project that NorthSite delivers for Arts Queensland.

Despite the setbacks brought on by a downturn in tourism and the flow-on effects to visitation at Bulmba-ja, we feel confident in our future and the growing national interest in our activities. We are very excited about the 30th anniversary of this great arts company in 2022 and look forward to celebrating with our members and friends.

*Michael Cosgrove, Chairperson, NorthSite Board of Directors*



**LENORE HOWARD**

*Beyond the Sight of Land* at NorthSite Contemporary Arts, 2021

Photo: Michael Marzik



LONG WATER: FIBRE STORIES

Left to right: Sonja Carmichael, Freja Carmichael, Delissa Walker, Willow Svijka, Andrea Higgins, Maceo De Satge, Ashleigh Campbell

Photo: Cristina Bevilacqua

“

In 2021 we worked with over **320 artists**, presented **24 exhibitions**, offered over **80 programs** and delivered **almost 100 training and arts education activities** in regional Queensland.”

*Ashleigh Campbell*

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

“

Teamwork makes the dream work...”

This year has been full of firsts and has required out-of-the-box flexible thinking and sustained commitment to the cause. The COVID-19 pandemic and the flow-on effects on societies has challenged aspects of daily life and operations, and for the arts industry this has presented continual new challenges to navigate and rise above.

Our exhibitions program this year had to remain flexible to adapt to further changes, challenges and opportunities. Complying with health measures saw capped visitation and reduction of some planned programs. Still, NorthSite supported over 300 artists across the Far North region.

Cairns is a gateway, a small town sandwiched between world-heritage areas and we're fortunate to have the guidance of strong Indigenous cultures continually caring for place. It's an honour to do the work we do in the arts, in partnership with the artists and communities we have close relationships with.

In January, I welcomed a son into the world and have been eternally grateful to the NorthSite Board and staff for the support, energy and professionalism that each of them have brought to the team. In planning for this organisational disruption, we've been able to each positively grow in our specialist roles and support one another to achieve what I believe to be high-quality outcomes across 2021.

Core staff grew from 3.8 full-time equivalent (FTE) in 2020 to 6 FTE in 2021, levels necessary to support our operations. Additionally, offering paid internships created ongoing new employment for emerging arts workers in Far North Queensland. We've been able to transition project-funded positions into a permanent position for Gallery Officer, Jamaylya Ballangarry-Kearins, something I'm very proud of.

I acknowledge the work of Executive Administrator Rebecca Youdell, Exhibitions and Programs Coordinator Rosie Miller, particularly during my maternity leave and the impact that Michael Marzik's Acting Directorship had upon gallery operations. I also thank First Nations curatorial mentor, Teho Ropeyarn who provided exhibition support to Aven Noah Jr as he commenced a dual role of Gallery Officer and Curator with NorthSite in January 2021.

I can see the impact that Jamie Clarke's expertise in Communications has brought to the organisation, increasing the quality and frequency of our marketing output - particularly in a year when the importance of communicating with audiences online was heightened (and so crowded). I thank outgoing marketing staff member Carlie Willis who left the organisation to follow her passion for writing and storytelling with the ABC.

Strong governance and adaptability of diverse skills, culture and thinking has allowed us to work towards our set vision in 2021 and stay on course. This brilliant team is achieving beneficial outcomes every day and bringing us closer to our long-term goals.

We again thank philanthropists John T Reid Trusts for their support of IndigeDesign Labs for empowering the next generation of deadly designers and Ian Potter Foundation for supporting Aven Noah Jr's curatorial development.

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE CONT.

We were fortunate to be able to keep shifting and presenting planned programs throughout 2021 and as a result, we were only closed during mandated lockdowns. Even with capped visitation and events restricted to intimate access, we were able to continue to present and trade online due to the new systems we've put in place over the past couple of years.

I commend and thank each member of our team from the bottom of my heart and recognise the support of their families. I know that they too are proud to share what we've been able to present this year at Bulmba-ja with artists relevant to this broad place we all call home.

I also commend and thank every single artist who shared their work through NorthSite this year. We understand how difficult it has been for many creatives as things shut down and work dried up. I deeply thank each of our members who supported NorthSite in 2021 and came to our shows. I also thank every single person who bought a piece of writing, design or art from an artist based in Far North Queensland this year.



Our team achieved a strong outcome for artists in the north in 2021 by generating over \$240,000 in artwork sales.”

We worked hard to commission artists and connect them with buyers and these figures demonstrate that. I congratulate Lauren Carter for these retail successes and leadership in growing the NorthSite Store.

Art is powerful for the ideas and the places that the stories and concepts within can transport you to. But in times like these, I'm acutely aware of our role as a funded arts organisation, ensuring our hard work supports our members and artists in the region. Sales keep artists alive.

It's been a pleasure to provide professional development opportunities, presentation outcomes and audience experiences with our project partners. Namely the second iteration of the IACA Artworker Training Program and gallery training for artists from Kowanyama as they work to establish a new community art space. Our ongoing relationship with TAFE is building towards further industry opportunities for students and graduates.

I thank Russell Milledge at James Cook University and Patty Preece at Central Queensland University for their ongoing commitment to nurturing arts students and for the various roles they both play in collaborating with and supporting NorthSite activities.

Thanks to Pullman International for their major commissioning of artists from the region for the redevelopment of the hotel during the border closures. This major project throughout 2021 provided significant sales and licensing opportunities for selected artists.

The national interest to partner with NorthSite to deliver key programs in association with us has built in 2021, and I look forward to seeing the pathways these activities create for our artists.

In 2022, keep an eye out for Outer Space gallery's SuperCut program in Brisbane, and a North|South Australian dialogue to support experimental and socially focused art in Australia that we're working on with Situate: Art in Festivals in Tasmania.

Gaining Australia Council for the Arts organisational funding (2021- 2024) was a great vote of confidence for our strategic forward-plan and vision, following a couple of years of dedicated repositioning toward becoming an unparalleled Australian contemporary arts institution in North Queensland.

We look forward to the world returning to some normality in 2022, and we will take the efficiencies and resourcefulness practiced over the past two years, with us into the coming years. We will keep demonstrating value for investment to our funding partners, providing opportunities for artists, and affecting people through arts experiences that connect you with this beautiful part of Australia.

I know we'll be welcoming full audiences back to the gallery again soon. In the meantime, stay well, stay connected, keep supporting artists, and take care of those around you.

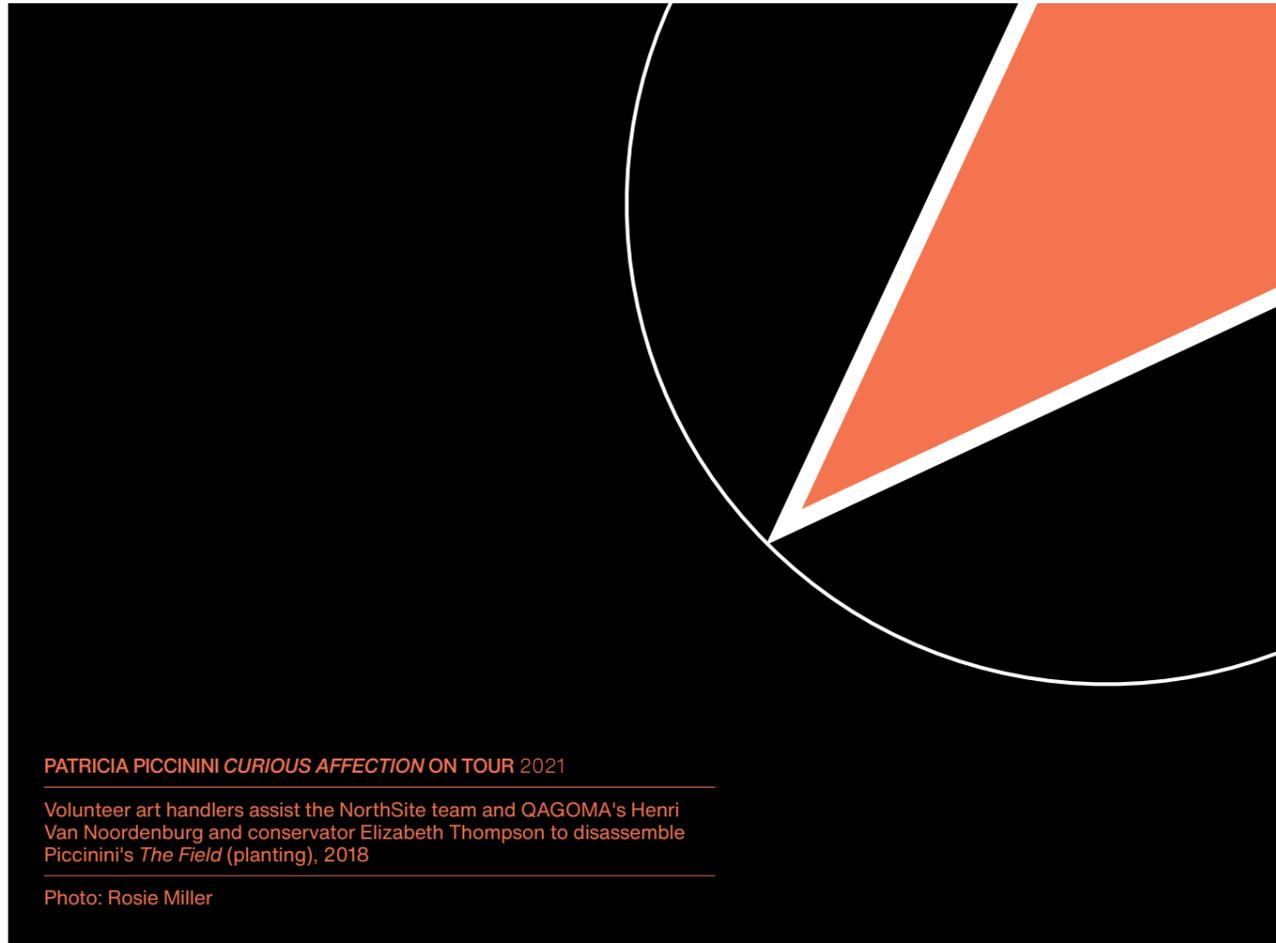
*Ashleigh Campbell, Director*



BEYOND THE SIGHT OF LAND

Left to right: Lenore Howard with Ashleigh Campbell

Photo: Cristina Bevilacqua



**PATRICIA PICCININI *CURIOUS AFFECTION ON TOUR* 2021**

Volunteer art handlers assist the NorthSite team and QAGOMA's Henri Van Noordenburg and conservator Elizabeth Thompson to disassemble Piccinini's *The Field* (planting), 2018

Photo: Rosie Miller



EXHIBITIONS

GALLERY 1 + VOID

CURIOUS AFFECTION ON TOUR

PATRICIA **PICCININI**

5 DECEMBER 2020 - 30 JANUARY 2021

Patricia Piccinini invites audiences to think about their place in a world where advances in biotechnology and digital technologies blur the lines between human, nature and the artificial world.

The artist's fascination with these boundaries and relationships led The New York Times to describe her creations as 'sculptures of life forms that don't exist' – her lifelike hybrid creatures seamlessly blend human, animal and machine elements to reveal life forms that are extraordinarily familiar.

*'Patricia Piccinini: Curious Affection on Tour'* is a touring exhibition developed by the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art.

# 14

## EXHIBITIONS

GALLERY 1 + VOID

### SHIFTING SURROUNDS

YANDELL WALTON

13 FEBRUARY – 10 APRIL 2021

*Shifting Surrounds* is an immersive digital media installation by contemporary artist Yandell Walton who grew up in Cairns and lives and works in Melbourne.

*Shifting Surrounds* continues Yandell's investigation of our anthropogenic age. These new installations explore the impact humans are having on the planet. In *Shifting Surrounds* Walton also introduces sculptural elements that bring a new physical presence to her futuristic visions as a means of engaging with the technological possibilities we now possess to adapt and/or construct the world we live in.



I'm very interested in the tension between the ephemerality of projection and the solidity of the architectural form.

Most of my work is site-responsive because, with projection, the space or object you're projecting onto merges with the moving image and becomes part of the artwork.

It's a dream come true to be finally presenting a solo exhibition in my hometown of Cairns, in proximity to important and threatened World Heritage Sites."

*Yandell Walton*

The *Shifting Surrounds* exhibition is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland. The workshop program is supported by the Regional Arts Development Fund, which is a partnership between the Queensland Government and the Cairns Regional Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.

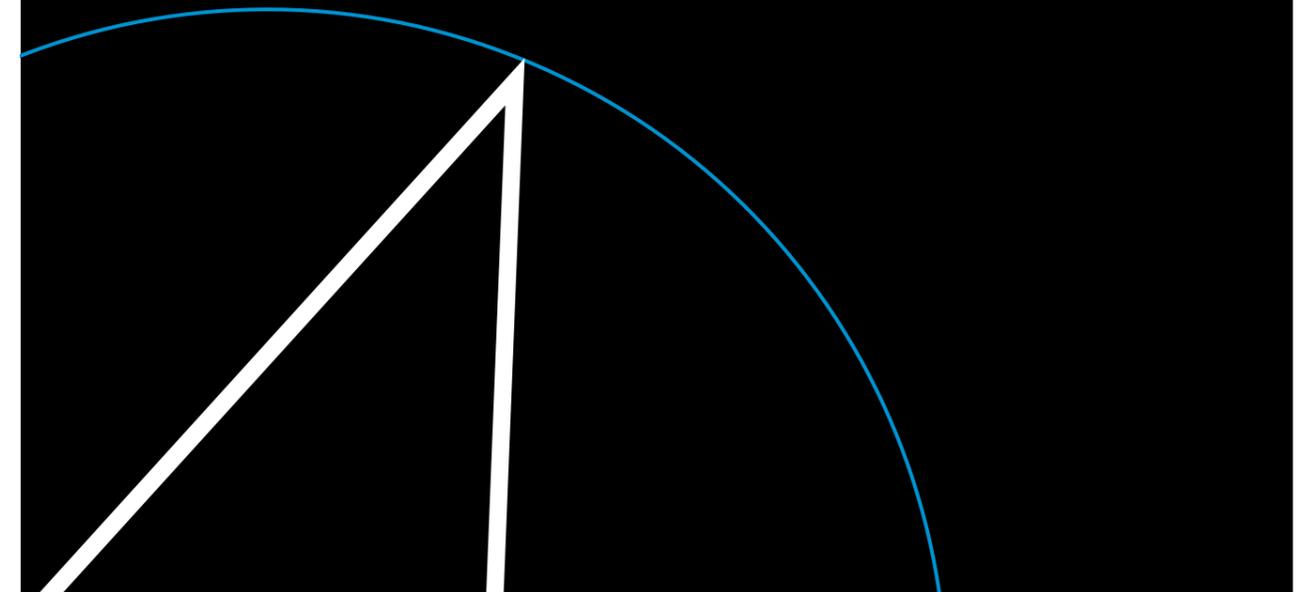


YANDELL WALTON

*Installation Gallery One, NorthSite*

*Uprise, 4 channel projection installation with sound. Sound design Michele Vescio with William Elm. Animation Tobias Edwards*

Photo: Michael Marzik



# 16

## EXHIBITIONS

### GALLERY 1

#### THE WORLD AROUND US

CURATED BY **AVEN NOAH JR**

17 APRIL - 29 APRIL 2021

ALFONSO PUAUTAJIMI, BERNARD VARTULI, BONEMAP – RUSSELL MILLEDGE AND REBECCA YODELL, ED KOUMANS, JOHN PULE, JOSIA REDESTOWICZ, KRISTIN TENNYSON, SUE WOODRIDGE AND ZANE SAUNDERS

*The World Around Us* is a NorthSite collection exhibition presenting works by ten artists; Alfonso Puautajimi, Bernard Vartuli, Bonemap – Russell Milledge and Rebecca Youdell, Ed Koumans, John Pule, Josia Redestowicz, Kristin Tennyson, Sue Woodridge and Zane Saunders.

The exhibition ravelns in the midst of global uncertainty, a time of great change that is affecting life on earth through a global pandemic; the good, the bad and the ugly.

*The World Around Us* through the works, allows viewers to self-reflect; through personal and emotional wellbeing, the importance of climate change and the environment, world trade and finances, wars, famine, migration and people, memory and time and effects of time in the future.

*This exhibition has been curated by Aven Noah Jr. with mentorship from Teho Ropeyarn.*

#### WHEN A TREE FALLS

DONNA DAVIS

7 MAY – 19 JUNE 2021

This playful yet reflective exhibition speaks of climate-induced flora displacement, hidden ecological players, and the human; exploring imagined ecological adaptations and hierarchies; and the idea of kin.

The works respond to current artist-residencies embedded within state and international science projects based in far North Queensland that explore the issue of rising temperatures from different perspectives. There is a long history of artists documenting scientific endeavors, however, this exhibition extends beyond documentation, using sculpture, stop-frame animation, digital media, and installation to explore interspecies relationships and perceived notions of hierarchy within ecological systems.

Both residencies examine the issue of climate change; the Tropical Mountain Plant Science project, led by the Australian Tropical Herbarium, is a result of consequence, undertaking a real-time rescue mission to save vulnerable mountain top flora from extinction with project partners cultivating the rescued plants in temperate zone Botanic Gardens, thousands of kilometres from their natural home. Whereas, the Wood, Termite, Fungi project, led by George Washington University, examines hidden players in the carbon cycle to model impacts of rising temperatures on the decomposition cycle.

The main theme that flows through the exhibition is ecological cause and effect through a multi-species lens, examining human and nonhuman hierarchal structures; ultimately seeking to empower a call to action to reconsider how we treat our kin, of all species.

*This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.*



WHEN A TREE FALLS

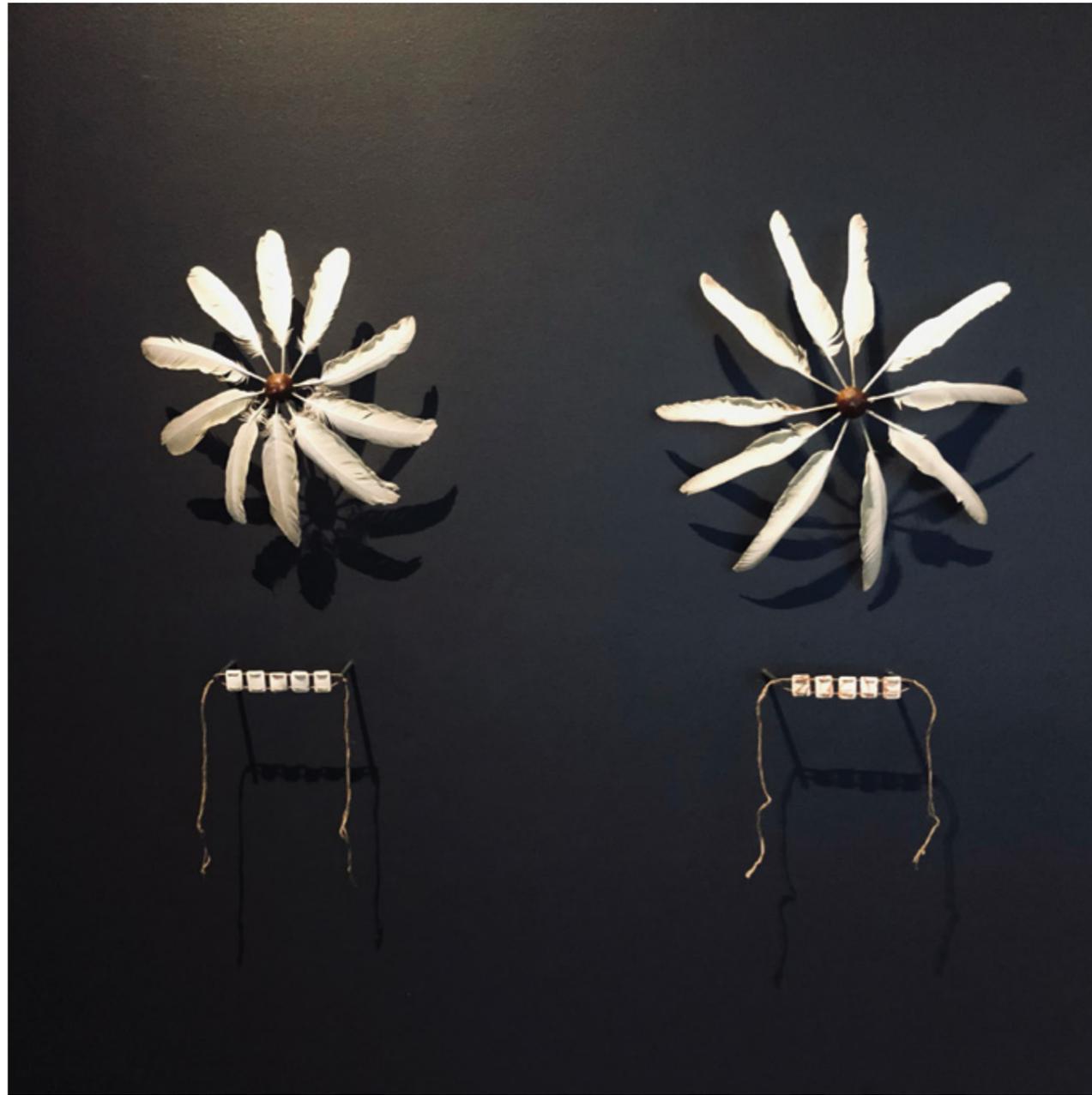
NorthSite Gallery One with artwork and installation by Donna Davis

Photo: Aishah Kenton



Anthropogenic disturbance is the reason for the current climate situation; as an artist I seek to understand the ecological complexity and explore our role as humans to alleviate and remedy the disorder”

*Donna Davis*



“

The Mirrimbal (head-dress is significant to the Djabugay and neighbouring nations, it is characterised by its distinctive circular shape and white cockatoo feathers.”

*Dennis Hunter  
Bada-djaygul (Bush Man)*

**DJABUGAY ART CENTRE**

*Bulurru Dagil-ndu "The people are strong, the spirit is strong, the creator is strong" at NorthSite Contemporary Arts, Void Gallery courtesy of Djabugay Art Centre*

Photo: Jamaylya Ballangarry-Kearins

**EXHIBITIONS**

GALLERY 1 + VOID

**BULURRU DAGIL-NDU**

**“THE PEOPLE ARE STRONG, THE SPIRIT IS STRONG, THE CREATOR IS STRONG”**

**DJABUGAY ART CENTRE**

26 JUNE - 4 SEPTEMBER 2021

The *Bulurru Dagil-ndu* exhibition illustrates a unique and compelling cultural narrative that draws from traditional lore and contextualises the contemporary experience of Djabugay artists and Djabugay bulmba (country).

Through new installation, object and video-based works the rising Djabugay Artists Collective tells the story of Gurra-minya and Gurra-bana, the dry and wet sides of the traditional Djabugay moitey system.

Bulurru is a very important Djabugay ngirrma (language) word. Its meaning crosses contexts: lore, creation, the creator, story waters, story places, the country, time itself, spiritual beings, and much more. Gurra-Gurra means ancestors in the Djabugay ngirrma. 'Minya' is meat from the dry-side of country. 'Bana' means water from the wet-side Country. If your father came from the dry-side, all your siblings had to follow your fathers' line, and you all became gurra-minya. If you were from gurra-minya you must marry someone from gurra-bana.

“The Djabugay Art Centre is literally, a work in progress. *Bulurru Dagil-ndu* is the breakout exhibition that displays and contextualises the strong arts and cultural heritage that underpins one of Queensland’s newest Indigenous art centres.”

*Dennis Hunter - Cultural Development Officer at Djabugay Aboriginal Corporation and exhibition curator*

**BEYOND THE SIGHT OF LAND**

**LENORE HOWARD**

11 SEPTEMBER - 30 OCTOBER 2021

*Beyond the Sight of Land* is a major exhibition by senior Cairns-based artist Lenore Howard. Essay by Sue Reid.

Intimate narratives and personal journeys thread through Howard’s work. Her practice has a trajectory from surrealist symbologies to abstract tendencies over the course of 40 years. Social and political references are embodied within the thought behind forms though not always overt in Howard’s final works.

This new large body of work that steps from collage to mono-printing and painting into striking two-dimensional sculptural forms, is a journey that leads the viewer across time and forms that traverse the mind map of the artist. Howard explores dichotomies and dualities through these works and moves across landscapes and topical inspirations to land on compositions laden with tension and balanced resolve.

“For me, these works are really about adventure and unpredictability, they open intangible and unknown worlds.”

*Lenore Howard*

# 20

## EXHIBITIONS

### GALLERY 2

#### LEGACIES LIVING ON

AMY LOOGATHA | ELSIE GABORI | DOLLY LOOGATHA | ETHEL THOMAS | DOROTHY GABORI | AGNES KOHLER | JOELENE ROUGHSEY | AMANDA GABORI | BETTY WILLIAMS | ROXANNE THOMAS | RENEE WILSON | JOHN WILLIAMS

26 JUNE - 30 OCTOBER 2021

*Legacies Living On* articulates the intertwined dreaming and storylines of both the Kaiadilt and Lardil people, now based at Mirndiyan Gununa (Mornington Island), paying homage to the leading modern artists from their respective clans.

Twelve contemporary Lardil and Kaidildt artists have worked together to produce a suite of refined collaborative paintings, jointly selecting the eight institutional artworks to be exhibited at NorthSite Contemporary Arts as a feature exhibition of CIAF 2021.

#### JUST NOT AUSTRALIAN

ABDUL ABDULLAH | HODA AFSHAR | TONY ALBERT | CIGDEM AYDEMIR | LIAM BENSON | JON CAMPBELL | KARLA DICKENS | FIONA FOLEY | GORDON HOOKEY | RICHARD LEWER | ARCHIE MOORE | VINCENT NAMATJIRA | NELL | RAQUEL ORMELLA | RYAN PRESLEY | JOAN ROSS | TONY SCHWENSEN | SODA JERK

5 NOVEMBER 2021 — 5 FEBRUARY 2022

*Just Not Australian* presents work by Australian artists at the forefront of national debate and practice. This exhibition brings together 20 artists across generations and diverse cultural backgrounds to deal broadly with the origins and implications of contemporary Australian nationhood. Showcasing the common sensibilities of satire, larrikinism and resistance to present a broad exploration of race, place and belonging, *Just Not Australian* interrogates what it means to be Australian at this challenging point in time. The ecological cause and effect through a multi-species lens examines human and non-human hierarchal structures, ultimately seeking to empower a call to action to reconsider how we treat our kin of all species.

*Just Not Australian* was curated by Artspace and developed in partnership with Sydney Festival and Museums & Galleries of NSW. The exhibition is touring nationally with Museums & Galleries of NSW.



“

A major exhibition of large-scale collaborative paintings by Lardil and Kaidildt artists on Mornington Island honouring the legacies of Goobalathaldin Dick Roughsey and Mirdidingkingathi Juwarnda Sally Gabori”

*Legacies Living On*

LEGACIES LIVING ON

*Mirndiyan Gununa exhibition at NorthSite Contemporary Arts, Gallery One, 2021*

Photo: Michael Marzik

## EXHIBITIONS

## GALLERY 2

## CALL OF THE RUNNING TIDE

CURATED BY JILL CHISM

19 FEBRUARY - 1 APRIL 2021

ROSEY CUMMINGS | ROSS CUMMINGS | SUSAN DOHERTY | BARBARA DOVER |  
TIM ELLIS | ASHLEY HOLMES | MOLLIE BOSWORTH | KLARA ROYSTER |  
SUZANNAH BABICCI | ANDREA COLLISSON | LEANNE EMMIT | VICTORIA PARK |  
LYNETTE GRIFFITHS | MARION GAEMERS | ROBYN GLADE-WRIGHT

*Call of the Running Tide* is a sculpture and multimedia group exhibition responding to the real and dire circumstances that humanity faces due to escalating ecological and climate change.

Extending their art practice, both conceptually and aesthetically, artists drew on a wide range of processes and a variety of media to communicate their concerns.

The works of art invite us to develop our deeper connections with the natural world; they urge us to galvanise and transform the ways we regard our planet and implore us to bring about changes for the better with the works a call to action.

Discover more about each artist: [northsite.org.au/exhibitions/call-of-the-running-tide-2/](https://northsite.org.au/exhibitions/call-of-the-running-tide-2/)

## KUNA SIUWAI POKONG (MEDICINAL PLANTS FROM SIWAI)

KATE ROBERTSON

10 APRIL — 26 JUNE 2021

This exhibition chronicles plants and their medicinal properties from the Siwai region of Bougainville Island, an autonomous region of Papua New Guinea, through photographic light recordings.

Concerned with the erosion of tacit traditional medicinal knowledge, Chief Alex Dawia of the Taa Lupumoiku Clan approached and invited Australian artist Kate Robertson to chronicle Siwai plant knowledge for preservation. Chief Jeffrey Noro of the Rura Clan, also from Siwai, joined their efforts, motivated by similar concerns to preserve tacit knowledge systems and provide positive recognition of their region.

Over five years, the project has evolved to include photographic prints, an embroidered fabric panel and a published book to explore how cross-cultural projects can provide mutual benefits through repatriation and transparency. Ultimately, it is a holistic inquiry into how we might work together across territorial borders, cultures and skillsets to achieve a shared future.

*“I’m very proud to present this showing here in Cairns with my daughter-in-law Kate, we have travelled and worked with community to share this knowledge so that the young people learn this, rather than just the information on their devices - no one else can teach them what we know of these plants.”*

*Chief Alex Dawia*

“

Ho mi ho kui ngung pekong tokunoi riku, hoko kukarei ho kui pokong tokunoi rihetong. Uwa ko, hoi nekong hongowa’a nahamong, ho kui pokong mi, ho pokong itikai yi haha’a roro ngo tawah. Ho korokoro rori hungyo, hoko musimang nekong toku topo inakarei.”

(When you lose the traditional name, you lose the knowledge of the plant because the traditional name describes the functionality of the plant. Therefore, when we lose our language, we are bound to lose our biodiversity because we can no longer find the value in each plant).

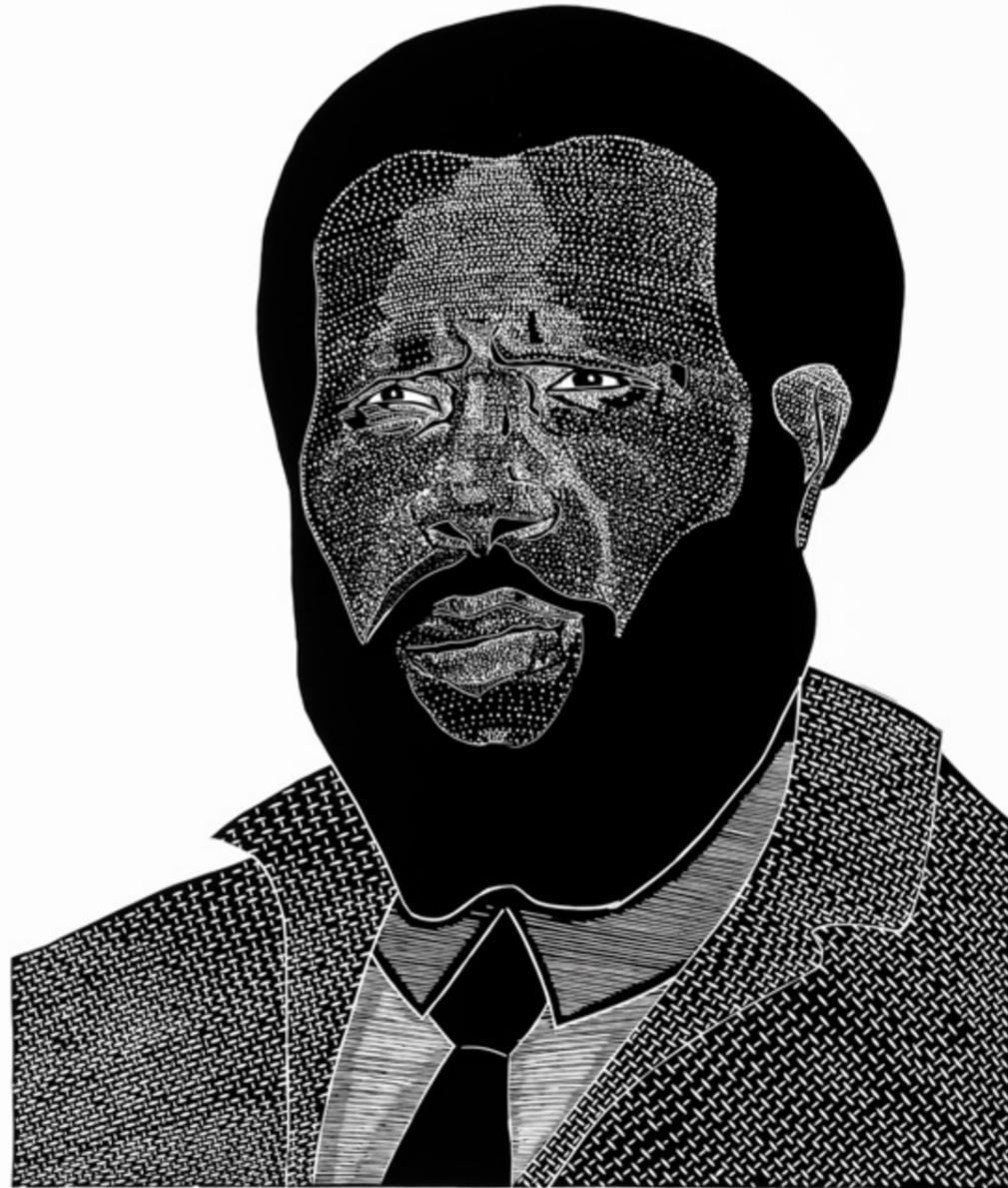
*Dr Jeffrey Noro*



**KATE ROBERTSON**

*Kuna Siuwai Pokong - Medicinal Plants from Siuwai, 2021, Installation at NorthSite, Gallery Two*

Photo: Michael Marzik



ROBERT TOMMY PAU

Mabo, 2021, linocut on somerset velvet white 300gsm 100% cotton, 70 x 59.5 cm

Courtesy of the artist

“

Coming of the Light is the demarcation point, a communicative event that frames the modern history of the Torres Strait. Enlightenment has the connotation of knowing oneself”

Robert Tommy Pau

## EXHIBITIONS

### GALLERY 2

#### TORRES STRAIT ENLIGHTENMENT: 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMING OF THE LIGHT

ROBERT TOMMY PAU

26 JUNE – 4 SEPTEMBER 2021

The Coming of the Light is an important event celebrated on 1 July each year. 2021 marks 150 years since the London Missionary Society led by Reverend Samuel MacFarlane anchored at Erub (Darnley Island) accompanied by South Sea Islander clergy people and evangelicals, with a mission to convert people of the Southwest Pacific to Christianity in the 1840s. In defiance of tribal law Dabad, a Warrior Clan Elder on Erub welcomed the London Missionary Society clergy and teachers.

View the publication to read more about these new artworks:  
[northsite.org.au/exhibitions/torres-strait-enlightenment/](http://northsite.org.au/exhibitions/torres-strait-enlightenment/)

#### LONG WATER: FIBRE STORIES

SUSAN BALBUNGA | MANDY BATJULA | ELISA JANE CARMICHAEL | SONJA CARMICHAEL | FIONA ELISALA-MOSBY | JANET FIELDHOUSE | HELEN GANALMIRRIWUY | RUTH NALMAKARRA | PAULA SAVAGE | LUCY SIMPSON | DELISSA WALKER

3 SEPTEMBER – 23 OCTOBER 2021

Like a confluence – where bodies of water meet – *long water: fibre stories* travels across place to bring together fibre practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women from different generations, experiences and ancestries.

The featured artists include community Elders, leaders, and younger artists, working in collaboration with collective and family memory or with their kin, community, or art centre to nurture, preserve, and share culture through fibre-based forms. These artists all carry a spirited attachment to water.

The places or passages traced in this exhibition are as follows: the vital fresh water rivers of Yuwaalaraay Country (North West NSW); the abundant salt water and fresh waters of Quandamooka Country (Moreton Bay, South East Qld); the place where sea and tropical rainforest meet on Kuku Yalanji Country (Far North Qld); the brilliant turquoise waters and clusters of islands in Torres Strait region (Far North Qld); and finally, the seas surrounding the spirited lands and waters of Yurrwi (Milingimbi Island, NT), and neighbouring homelands in far North East Arnhem Land (NT).

The artists in this exhibition make clear that their relationships to water are both unbreakable and complexly interwoven with all other elements that sustain life, culture, identity and spirituality. Their artworks remind us that to weave is to honour the ways of water, to care for the environment and systems that support important water sites, and to acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures flow from a deep and eternal source—Ancestors and Country.

*long water: fibre stories* is curated by Freja Carmichael, a Ngugi woman from Quandamooka Country. This exhibition has been developed through relationships with artists and communities, particularly the Milingimbi Art and Culture Centre, and Moa Arts.

*Long water: fibre stories* is a travelling exhibition organised by Institute of Modern Art (IMA), toured by Museums & Galleries Queensland. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through its Visions of Australia program and the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body; and String Harvest. *long water* is generously supported by IMA Trailblazers.

## EXHIBITIONS

GALLERY 2

### THE MERI PROJECT

WENDY MOCKE

26 JUNE — 4 SEPTEMBER 2021

*The 'm e r i' project* is a collection of photographs and stories, initiated from years of conversations with young Papua New Guinean women. Whilst unpacking questions surrounding cultural identity and Black womanhood, I encountered a recurring theme: Young PNG women often feel silenced and actively fight against a limited vision of what is deemed possible for themselves. The common portrayal of PNG women in western media is often associated with tragedy or poverty. It is the harmful nature of the western gaze that minimises the full breadth and complexity of the Melanesian woman. This creative project focuses on the re-contextualizing of PNG women. Its aim is to find innovative ways for PNG women to define themselves. To speak their truth to power, without fear of erasure.

*The 'm e r i' project received development support through the Regional Arts Development Fund is a partnership between the Queensland Government and Cairns Regional Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.*



Visit *The 'm e r i' project* virtual exhibition to hear the audio recordings and watch the opening film

“

Through the journey of developing this project, I have been a mixture of inspired, heartbroken, enraged, ecstatic but ultimately fall in constant awe of the unwavering deep sense of commitment and fortitude these women harness.”

*Wendy Mocke*

#### THE 'M E R I' PROJECT

*Tegan Koster and Wendy Mocke at the opening of 'The m e r i Project' at NorthSite Contemporary Arts*

Photo: Alicia Maybir, Studio Sol

## EXHIBITIONS

GALLERY 2

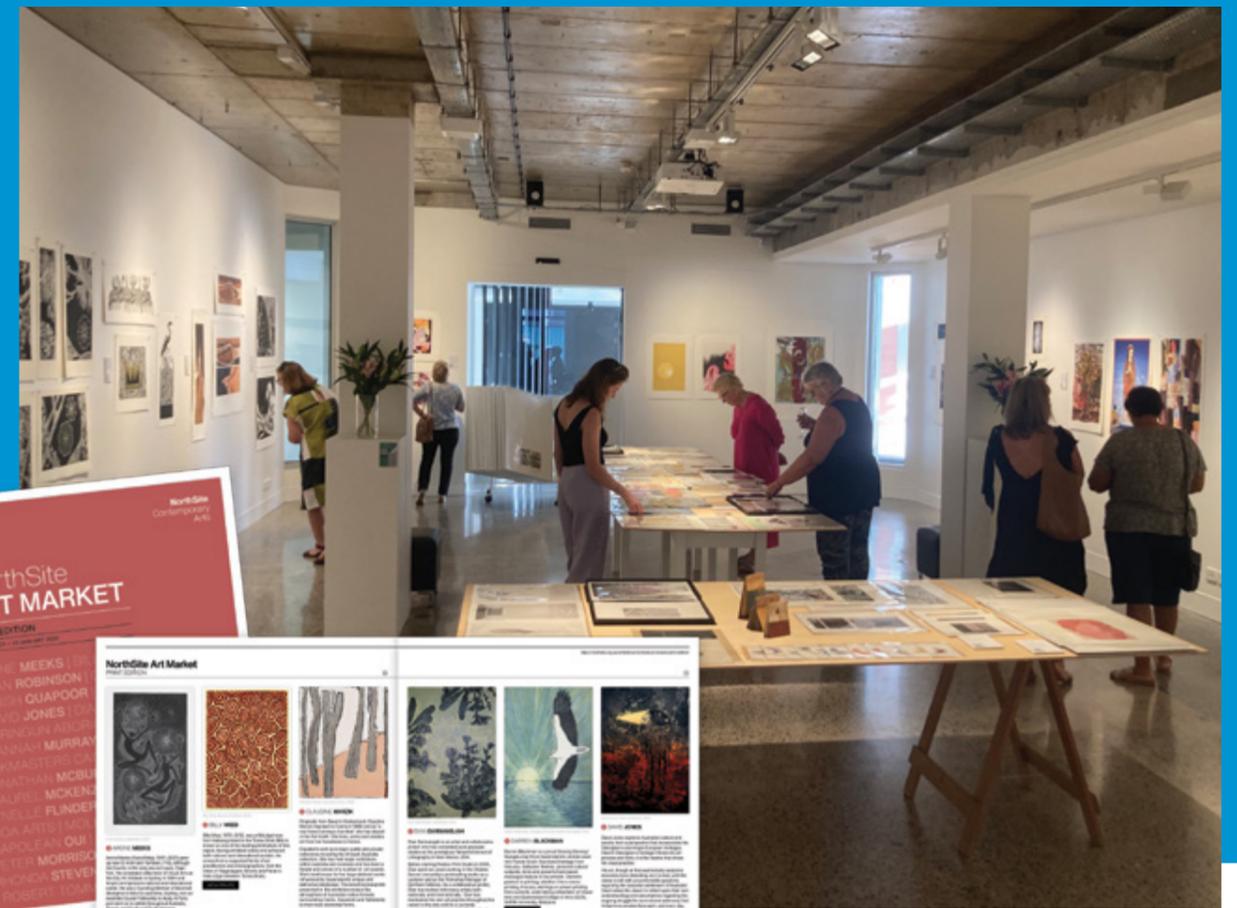
### THE NORTHSITE ART MARKET: PRINT EDITION

ARONE MEEKS | BILLY MISSI | BRIAN ROBINSON | CLAUDINE MARZIK | DANISH QUAPOOR | DARREN BLACKMAN | DAVID JONES | DIAN DARMANSJAH | GIRRINGUN ABORIGINAL ART CENTRE | HANNAH MURRAY | HANNAH PARKER | INKMASTERS CAIRNS | JOEL SAM | JONATHAN MCBURNIE | LAURA CASTEL | LAUREL MCKENZIE | LENORE HOWARD | LYNELLE FLINDERS | MICHAEL MARZIK | MOA ARTS | MOLLIE BOSWORTH | NAPOLEAN OUI | NEIL BINNIE | PETER MORRISON | RHI JOHNSON | RHONDA STEVENS | TAMIKA GRANT-IRAMU | ROBERT TOMMY PAU

17 DECEMBER 2021 — 12 FEBRUARY 2022

A NorthSite Store retail initiative to support Far North Queensland artists. *The NorthSite Art Market* celebrated the region's unique suite of contemporary printmakers.

View the publication to read more about these new artworks:  
[northsite.org.au/exhibitions/northsite-art-market-print-edition/](http://northsite.org.au/exhibitions/northsite-art-market-print-edition/)



NORTHSITE ART MARKET

Photo: Lauren Carter

## EXHIBITIONS

BULMBA-JA LONG GALLERY

### TROPICAL PUNK BACKPACKS

FRANCOISE LANE

7 JULY – 28 AUGUST 2021

*Tropical Punk Backpacks* is an international design collaboration between Torres Strait designer Francoise Lane and Scottish Designer Emily Millichip.

In 2016 as part of the British Council's Accelerate Program, Lane met Millichip a Scottish fashion designer and manufacturer. With a background in anthropology and specifically Indigenous belief systems, Millichip and Lane shared a passion for design and culture and vowed to collaborate. Funded through a research grant from the Australia Council for the Arts, Lane travelled to the Edinburgh College of Arts and Millichip's studio where the eight final *Tropical Punk Backpacks* were collaboratively designed and produced. The project was a finalist in the Creative Edinburgh 2018 Collaborations Award.

The limited collection of fabrics and resulting backpacks take inspiration from the black bean seed pod a native tree growing in Tropical North Queensland.

*The presentation of Tropical Punk Backpacks was sponsored by Indij Designs and Expressway Signs*

### NORTHSITE MEMBERS SHOWCASE

CLAUDINE MARZICK | FIONA OMEENYO | ETHEL THOMAS | DOLLY LOOGATHA | AMY LOOGATHA | NETTA LOOGATHA | DAPHNE DE JERSEY | ROSELLA NAMOK

2 MARCH – 18 APRIL 2021

The *Northsite Members Showcase* gave patrons a glimpse into the Northsite Contemporary Arts vault - showcasing amazing original works by award winning Far North Queensland artists such as Rosella Namok and Fiona Omeenyo. A fantastic incentive for customers to purchase one of kind local artwork, it gave artists a platform to present art which they were not able to sell or exhibit due to the pandemic.

### UPSIDE-UP

BIANCA FOSTER | BROOKE FOSTER | KASSANDRA SAVAGE | KAY WILLIAMS | SHERYL BURCHILL | RUTH SAVEKA | HEATHER TAIT

2 NOVEMBER 2021 – 22 JANUARY 2022

*Upside-Up* is a project that nurtured emerging Indigenous artists in our region. InkMasters Cairns delivered the 34-week program over 2021, providing access to InkMasters Print Workshop facilities, studio time, and tailored mentoring in printmaking as a visual artform that offers future creative career opportunities.

The three *Upside Up* project mentors – Hannah Parker, Theo Tremblay and Justin Majid – have fostered skills and artistic capacity in a fully equipped professional studio. The artists have learned studio operations and aspects of business practice while finding new ways to tell their own stories in the preparation of new works for exhibition. They have gained a strong basis from which to launch rewarding independent artistic practices; the original fine-art prints on display here are the outcome of the innovative project.

*InkMasters, a not-for-profit community-based organisation, has benefited from nurturance of an expanded base of experienced printmaking artists in our region. This project was made possible by the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund which supports the arts in regional and remote Australia.*

“

Drawing inspiration from my culture, woven bags, shells, and seeds, I explored baskets and forms in nature that could inspire a bag design. The seeds of the black bean pod are round and oblong shaped, shiny brown in colour and silky smooth to touch... a lesson in nature's efficiency of design.”

*Francoise Lane*



FRANCOISE LANE

*Tropical Punk Backpacks, 2021, installation at NorthSite Contemporary Arts, Long Gallery*

Photo: Michael Marzik

## EXHIBITIONS

### BULMBA-JA FOYER

#### SAERAW THONAR

JOSEPH AU | AIONA TALA GAIDAN | EDMUND LAZA | LAURIE NONA |  
MICHAEL NONA | MATILDA MALUJEWEL NONA | ALICK TIPOTI

26 JULY - 6 NOVEMBER 2021

In celebration of Newcastle Art Gallery's *WARWAR: Art of the Torres Strait* curated by Brian Robinson. Major relief lino print artworks created for the exhibition *Sageraw Thonar – Stories from the South-easterly Season: Contemporary Expressions of Cultural Knowledge from Badu Art Centre* were loaned to Newcastle Art Gallery and also placed on display on the Bulmba-ja Foyer wall. These large-scale prints are available exclusively through NorthSite, courtesy of and on behalf of Badu Arts.

*The exhibition was supported by the Australian Government's Indigenous Languages and Art Projects Grant and through the Australia Council for the Arts Organisations Projects Grant in 2016.*

#### LEGACIES LIVING ON

AMY LOOGATHA | ELSIE GABORI | DOLLY LOOGATHA | ETHEL THOMAS |  
DOROTHY GABORI | AGNES KOHLER | JOELENE ROUGHSEY | AMANDA GABORI |  
BETTY WILLIAMS | ROXANNE THOMAS | RENEE WILSON | JOHN WILLIAMS

20 NOVEMBER - 5 MARCH 2022

*Legacies Living On* articulates the intertwined dreaming and storylines of both the Kaiadilt and Lardil people now based at Mirndiyan Gununa (Mornington Island), paying homage to the leading modern artists from their respective clans.

Twelve contemporary Lardil and Kaidilt artists have worked together to produce a suite of refined collaborative paintings, jointly selecting the eight institutional artworks to be exhibited at NorthSite Contemporary Arts as a feature exhibition of CIAF 2021.

#### WIK WATERHOLES

FLORA WOOLLA | JANET KOONGOTEMA | JEAN WALMBENG |  
NITA YUNKAPORTA | VERA KOOMEETA

24 SEPTEMBER - 2022 IN NORTHSITE STORE AND ONLINE

A series of paintings hand-selected by the NorthSite Director from the Wik & Kugu Art Centre and Akay Koo'illa Women's Art Centre. Each work speaks of homelands, memories of Country and family. An initiative to support artists during Queensland border restrictions and CIAF cancellation.



#### PREPARING FOR FUTURE LOANS

Aven Noah Jr condition reporting the Badu Art Centre 2016 *Sageraw Thonar* prints at NorthSite Contemporary Arts, 2021

Photo: Michael Marzik



2021 at NorthSite has been an inspirational experience working with diverse creative minds”

*Aven Noah Jr.  
Curator*

## NORTHSITE EXHIBITIONS ON TOUR

The 'm e r i' Project was several years in development, presented as an online virtual series through NorthSite during the 2020 pandemic closure, and realised in Gallery Two at NorthSite in late 2021.

Through photography and audio recordings, 'm e r i' looks at how Melanesian women, specifically Papuan New Guinean women, reflect upon their cultural identity.

Photographs and sound scapes from *The 'm e r i' Project* will now be presented by NorthSite as part of Women of the World Festival at the Brisbane Powerhouse in 2022.

“

Special mention to and bikpla tenkiu na luksave go long Northsite Contemporary Arts gallery and the 5Five for believing in m e r i and supporting her in her journey.”

Wendy Mocke



Interview with Namila Benson on ABC ArtWorks about *The 'm e r i' Project* showing at NorthSite, Nov 2021.

## PUBLIC ART: Commissions

### BULMBA-JA LED FACADE



JANICE GHEE

*Bulmba-ja LED Facade, 2021*

NorthSite has been commissioned by Arts Queensland to work with First Nations artists to create digital public artworks for the Bulmba-ja building facade.

#### INDIGEDESIGN LABS COLLABORATION 21 DECEMBER 2020 - 30 AUGUST 2021

DESIGNERS: JANICE GHEE | AZALIA SALEE | ADI PASSI | KAYDEN PARKES | RAYMOND CLARK

Supported by John T Reid Charitable Trusts, in partnership with Ingeous Design Studios owner Leigh Harris, with IndigeDesign Labs is a multi-artist collaboration produced by young First Nations creatives as part of a year-long program of digital skills delivery at Bulmba-ja.

Participants were supported in conceptual and technical training over several months to create digital drawings using a variety of current design platforms and gained experience crafting imagery into meaningful and visually coherent sequences that collectively express

Thanks to Russell Milledge who worked closely with the artists to produce their work on the large-scale LED facade format.

#### MIRNDIYAN GUNUNA MORNINGTON ISLAND ART CENTRE COMMENCING 31 AUGUST 2021

ARTISTS: AMY LOOGATHA | ELSIE GABORI | DOLLY LOOGATHA | ETHEL THOMAS | DOROTHY GABORI | AGNES KOHLER | JOELENE ROUGHSEY | AMANDA GABORI | BETTY WILLIAMS | ROXANNE THOMAS | RENEE WILSON | JOHN WILLIAMS

Artworks from the exhibition *Legacies Living On* were translated into magnificent public artworks, visible day and night on the Bulmba-ja LED facade.

Mirndiyen Gununa Aboriginal Corporation to translate these significant artworks into the site-specific, large-scale public artworks on the building facade.

It has been wonderful to see this spectacular exhibition adapted in new ways to reach more people through public art.



Play is essential in the development of an inquiring mind and experimentation is a strategy to encourage critical and creative thinking”

Rosie Miller

**PLAY SPACE IN ACTION**

NorthSite Contemporary Arts

Photo: Rosie Miller

**PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

**SELECTED TOURS & TALKS**

**Curator Talk:**

- Jill Chism: *Call of the Running Tide* exhibition for Bulmba-ja tenants
- Freja Carmichael, *long water: fibre stories* exhibition
- Aven Noah Jr, for Indigenous Mareeba and Cairns secondary students hosted by Miriki Performing Arts, The Australian Ballet and Mulungu Aboriginal Corporation Primary Health Care Service

**Artist Talk:**

- Alex Dawia and Kate Robertson *Kuna Siuwai Pokong (Medicinal plants from Siwai)*
- Tommy Pau with TAFE Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural studies students
- Lenore Howard *Beyond the Sight of Land* for Yorkeys Knob Group; and Blue Care respite group

**Gallery Industry talks and tours:**

- Djabugay artist visit with Dennis Hunter & CEO Nick Mills and the Djumburru Nyiwul Dancers
- Tablelands Regional Council Volunteers
- IACA Art Centre Managers and artists
- NGV trustees - cancelled

**PERFORMANCES & SCREENINGS**

All officiations included Welcome to Country by representatives of Traditional Owner Groups.

- *The Art of Listening*: Natalia Mann and Merindi Schrieber resonance performance in Gallery One, responding to collection artworks and live-streamed
- *Just Not Australian* Film Screening: Terror Nullius by Soda Jerk
- Klare Kuolga: Papua New Guinean jazz musician
- Magik Carpet Ride (Jasmin Seale) 'm e r i' DJ
- Torres Strait Choir for *Torres Strait Enlightenment 150th anniversary of the Coming of the Light* event

**SELECTED EDUCATION / WORKSHOPS**

**Artist Talk + Tutorials for Schools:**

- Kuranda District State College
- Cairns State High School
- Trinity Bay State High School
- St Gerard Majella Primary School
- Mossman State High School
- Trinity Bay State High School (Nina Jackman)
- Smithfield State High School Yr 11 & 12 Tour, + live video conversations with the Artists
- Djarragun College Visit
- St Mary's College Senior Art Students
- Innisfail State High School Visit (year 10, 11 & 12)
- Tafe Queensland North

**Workshops:**

- Rosey Cummins *Call of the Running Tide*
- Delissa Walker *long water: fibre stories*
- Lenore Howard field trip for Elemental Drawing at Stoney Creek
- Cairns State High School Senior Visual Arts Students workshops at the gallery

**Industry training:**

- *Call of the Running Tide* artists consult
- TAFE Students
- CIAF Interns and Gallery tour
- Work Experience: Tamara Griffith of TAS
- Work Experience: Yr 10 student Ryleigh of St Andrews Catholic College

**MASTER CLASS**

Yandell Wanton: *Shifting Surrounds* 3-Day projection Masterclass supported by the Regional Arts Development Fund, a partnership between the Queensland Government and the Cairns Regional Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.

Indigenous Art Centre Alliance's (IACA) Artworker Training Program 3-day curatorial program delivered by NorthSite staff for IACA and associated Art Centres.

Australian Tropical Herbarium Tour: Field trip and specimen mounting class - cancelled

## DIGITAL ADAPTATION

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

## SELECTED ONLINE EXHIBITIONS

## Call of the Running Tide

## GROUP EXHIBITION

19 FEBRUARY — 1 APRIL 2021

In addition to the physical exhibition, *Call of the Running Tide* online exhibition includes images, videos and content of all participating artists and their work.

[northsite.org.au/exhibitions/call-of-the-running-tide-2/](https://northsite.org.au/exhibitions/call-of-the-running-tide-2/)

**Bulurru Dagil-ndu “The people are strong, the spirit is strong, the creator is strong”**

## DJABUGAY ART CENTRE

26 JUNE — 4 SEPTEMBER 2021

Following the physical three day closure due to COVID-19 lockdown and the cancellation of CIAF, NorthSite created digital collateral to promote the exhibition and reach a wider audience. This included films, digital brochures and a detailed exhibition listing on the NorthSite website. Watch the Djabugay exhibition interview with cultural curator Dennis Hunter.

[northsite.org.au/exhibitions/bulurru-dagil-ndu-the-people-are-strong-the-spirit-is-strong-the-creator-is-strong/](https://northsite.org.au/exhibitions/bulurru-dagil-ndu-the-people-are-strong-the-spirit-is-strong-the-creator-is-strong/)

## The ‘m e r i’ project

## WENDY MOCKE

30 OCTOBER — 11 DECEMBER 2021

The ‘m e r i’ project presented in Gallery Two and full online exhibition using artworks, quotes and sound recordings provided an insight into each story represented in the on-site and online exhibitions.

[northsite.org.au/exhibitions/the-m-e-r-i-project-wendy-mocke/](https://northsite.org.au/exhibitions/the-m-e-r-i-project-wendy-mocke/)

The exhibition opening was filmed and can be viewed **here:** [vimeo.com/josaphineseale](https://vimeo.com/josaphineseale)

## SELECTED LIVE-STREAMED EVENTS

## Exhibition Opening + Artist &amp; Curator Talk

24 SEPTEMBER 2021

As border restrictions persisted and event numbers were capped, NorthSite endeavoured to bring exhibition openings to our audience members who were unable to physically attend. Through live streaming artist + curator talks and the exhibition opening of *Beyond the Sight of Land* by Lenore Howard and *long water: fibre stories* curated by Freja Carmichael NorthSite was able to see a higher audience attendance and engagement.

[youtube.com/user/KickArtsGallery](https://youtube.com/user/KickArtsGallery)

## Exhibition Opening

1 JULY 2021

We had the great pleasure of opening Robert Tommy Pau’s major solo exhibition on the 150th Anniversary of Coming of the Light. To share this event online with family members back home was truly special. The event consisted of an artist talk by Robert Tommy Pau, the official exhibition opening by Mrs Bakoi Namok (wife of the late Mr Bernard Namok), Choir singers ‘Coming of the Light’ song followed by a prayer by Sam Bana.

[northsite.org.au/exhibitions/torres-strait-enlightenment/](https://northsite.org.au/exhibitions/torres-strait-enlightenment/)

## INTERVIEWS

## Tropical Punk Backpacks

Francoise Lane in conversation with Scottish collaborator Emily Millichip and NorthSite Director, Ashleigh Campbell

[northsite.org.au/watch/](https://northsite.org.au/watch/)

**Bulurru Dagil-ndu “The people are strong, the spirit is strong, the creator is strong”**

Djabugay exhibition interview with cultural curator Dennis Hunter

[instagram.com/tv/CTRKapihyal](https://instagram.com/tv/CTRKapihyal)

## DIGITAL ADAPTATION CONT.

ART + SCIENCE: [northsite.org.au/watch/](https://northsite.org.au/watch/)

## ONLINE STREAMED PANEL DISCUSSIONS

## Art + Science | Panel Discussion

## Yandell Walton - Shifting Surrounds

Katie Chartrand - JCU Senior Researcher Centre for Tropical Water and Aquatic Ecosystems Research

Lisa Law - Associate Professor of Urban Planning at James Cook University and Chair Tropical Urbanism and Design Lab

Lucas Cernusak - Associate Professor College of Science and Engineering JCU / Centre for Tropical Environmental and Sustainability Science

Andy Ridley - Co-founder and founding CEO of the global movement, Earth Hour and CEO of f

Torres Webb - Science advocate and leader

## Art + Science | Panel Discussion

## Donna Davis - When a Tree Fall

Professor Darren Crayn - Director, Australian Tropical Herbarium

Dr Amy Zanne - George Washington University

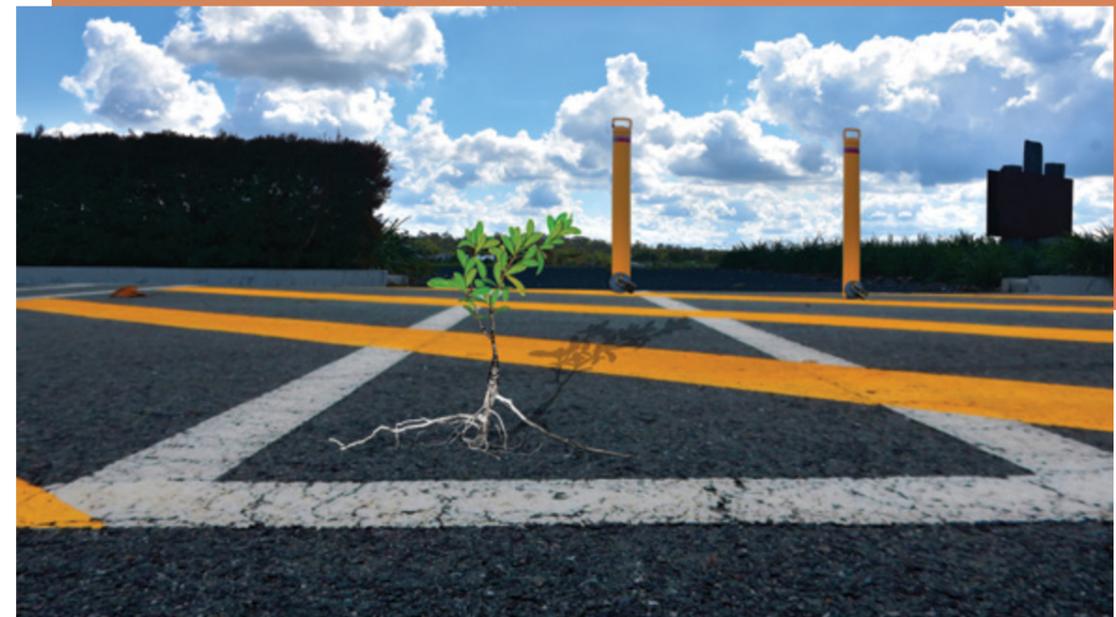
Adjunct Associate Professor Lisa Chandler - University of Sunshine Coast

Adam Stevens - ABC radio presenter

“

Digitally adapting our public programs through online exhibitions, live-streamed events and films enabled artists to reach a wider audience.”

Jamie Clarke



DONNA DAVIS

*Displaced [TRANSplant IV], digital still, 2021, single channel digital stop-frame animation*

Image courtesy of the artist

## DIGITAL ADAPTATION CONT.

### Event

#### The Art of Listening

NATALIA MANN & MERINDI SCHRIEBER

Bringing to life NorthSite's Art Collection and artworks by Far North Queensland artists renowned Kuku Yalanji song woman Merindi Schrieber and international harpist Natalia Mann reveal the language of universal sound through the resonance and interpretation of the image. With streaming support from Shiny Shiny Productions, the musical interpretations of art featuring works by Peter B Morrison, Sandra Steffensen, Margaret Mara, Ed Koumans and Arthur Roughsey encompassing prints, paintings and ceramics.

[northsite.org.au/watch/](http://northsite.org.au/watch/)



NATALIA MANN & MERINDI SCHRIEBER

NorthSite Contemporary Arts, 2021



## STAFF TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



NORTHSITE TEAM

On Bulmba (Country) with Djabugay Rangers

Photo: Nicholas Mills

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TEAM TRAINING

**Conservation workshop:** 'Caring for Art Collections' with Melanie Sorrenson of Sorrenson Art Conservation delivered a one day course in artwork conservation. As a qualified art conservator for 15 years and providing Cairns Museum with services, 'Caring for and storing Art Collections' (part 1 of 2) provided all staff with up-skilling in caring for paper works. Topics: Caring for & Storing Art Collections, Risks, Damage prevention, Cleaning toolkit, Safe Handling, Tools of the trade, specialist equipment/toolbox

**CRAFT Victoria online course:**

- Brand Strategy
- Natural Light Photography

**Michael Marzik professional photographer:** upskilled shop staff with studio photography and photo editing through Adobe Creative Suite training, Digital File Management, and camera functions for SLR and mobiles.

**Cultural Awareness Training** for NorthSite team on Country with Djabugay Arts Centre.

**Teho Ropeyarn:** First Nations curatorial mentoring for Aven Noah Jr.

**First Nations Cultural Training** with Pauline Lampton from Miriki Performing Arts

**First Aid Training** - All Staff Update Certificates

**Professional Development Training** in Administration for Maria Morrison, Minjil

**Professional Development Training** for Gab Titui recently appointed artworkers. Aven Noah Jr and Michael Marzik travelled to Thursday Island to install *long water: fibre stories* and support the Gab Titui Team.

# 40

## ARTSWORKER TRAINING



### CASE STUDY - KOWANYAMA ARTISTS, GALLERY TRAINING

Priscilla MAJOR, Fayleen JIMMY, Matilda AIDAN, Chrissy AIDAN and Noleen CECIL, artistic director Tania MAJOR and artist guide Sue BONACCORSI

Artists from Kowanyama participated in a 2-day hands-on art handling training intensive in exhibitions, sharing gallery processes, art handling, installation and art photography tips, and artistic experiences as they get set to launch their first community exhibition in Kowanyama in anticipation of a future Art Centre.

### KOWANYAMA TRAINING

Chrissy Aidan with Jamaylya Ballangarry-Kearins

Photo: Ashleigh Campbell

## 42 VOLUNTEERS

AKIKO HANAZAKI | ALEX DAWIA | ALINA BIELIENKOVA | ANITRA MURPHY | ANNE JILLETT | ANNE PYLE | ASHLEIGH CAMPBELL | AUDREY BURTON | BEATRICE HARRIS | BRADLEY EAST | BRIONY MOLE | CATHERENA MCRAE | CHRIS MORRISON | CONNIE HARRIS | CRISTINA BEVILACQUA | DIESEL CASTLEMAN | DORIS BERGER | GABRIELLE COONEY | GRETCHEN DICKINS | HANNAH MURRAY | JASMINE WATSON | JULIA GOULDING | KACHEYAH (CHEY) SEE KEE | KATE BENSEN | KERRIE MILLER | KIM NOLAN | LAUREL MCKENZIE | LEAH MCBRIDE | LENORE HOWARD | LINDA GORDON | LISA JONES | LOIS HAYES | MELANIA JACK | MERINDI SCHRIEBER | MICHEL CREECY | NATALIA MANN | PATTY PREECE | PETER MORRISON | RYLEIGH | ROSEY CUMMINS | RUSSELL MILLEDGE | SUE GILMOUR | TAMARA GRIFFITH

# 41

## YOUTH ARTS PATHWAYS PROGRAM

A new, vital arts initiative with support from Arts Queensland allowed three emerging, early-career practitioners to undertake learning pathways through paid industry placements and customised training opportunities. The NorthSite Internship Program provided industry placement and employment opportunities in the arts and culture sector in Far North Queensland. Caitlin Dobson (exhibitions intern), Nur Aishah Abdullah Farid Kenton (aka Aisha Kenton) (programs intern) and Jamaylya Ballangarry-Kearins (retail intern) gained valuable skills, networks and experiences working alongside leading artists and arts practitioners. NorthSite gained wonderful interns to run programs and liaise with the community, and the curatorial vision of independent practice will bring partnerships and resources to bear in NorthSite's 2022 program.

“

Working in a small team I was able to diversify my experience in many areas outside exhibition programming including communications, exhibition documentation, contracts and art handling which I found useful in building my confidence with the cultural training a highlight, adding to my experience as an arts worker”, mentions Aisha Kenton.

Proud Djabugay intern Jamaylya Ballangarry-Kearins said “I am beyond impressed to be a part of an organisation that is dedicated to training an Indigenous Curator, and to work alongside and watch Aven Noah Jr's journey to that dream is something I hold very dear to myself. I hope with my new found skills and the fantastic opportunities I've been given by NorthSite I will have a long and ever growing career in Cairn's arts industries”.



*Youth And Arts Pathways supports Queensland's young people within the arts and cultural sector during the phase of COVID-19 recovery where social distancing impacts the usability or viability of the sector. Arts Queensland is interested in supporting applications which best achieve career development for young people.*

### NORTHSITE TEAM, MAY 2021

Aven Noah Jr. (Curator), Lauren Carter (Retail Coordinator) with Aishah Kenton (Programs Intern) and Jamaylya Ballangarry-Kearins (Retail Intern)

Photo: Michael Marzik



LENORE HOWARD FIELD TRIP

Mark-making in the landscape workshops.  
Location: Stoney Creek, *Din Din*  
Barron Gorge National Park

Photo: Ashleigh Campbell



“

[NorthSite] did everything possible to support me and present the work in the most professional way.”

*Lenore Howard*

LENORE HOWARD

Photo: Kerry Trapnell

**320+ ARTISTS** 57% First Nations representation in Artists cohort

Presenting in exhibitions and/or sold work through the NorthSite Store

ABDUL ABDULLAH | ADI PASSI | ADRIAN KING | AGNES KOHLER | AGNES WOTTON | AIONA TALA GAIDAN | AKIKO HANAZAKI | ALAIR PAMBEGAN | ALEX DAWIA | ALFONSON PUAUTAJIMI | ALICIA MAYBIR | ALICIA SUE SEE | ALICK TIPOTI | AMANDA GABORI | AMY LOOGATHA | ANDREA COLLISON | ANDREA HUELIN | ANDREW DUFFIN | ANNA EGLITIS | ANNE JILLET | ARCHIE MOORE | ARONE MEEKS | ARTHUR ROUGHSEY | ASHLEY HOLMES | AZALIAH SALEE | BARBARA DOVER | BARRY HUNTER | BERNARD VARTULI | BETTY ANDY | BETTY WILLIAMS | BEVAN NAMPONAN | BIANCA FOSTER | BILLY MISSI | BIRDTRIBE WEARABLE ART | BLAK FLAIR | BONEMAP (RUSSELL MILLEDGE & REBECCA YOUDELL) | BRADLEY WILSON | BRIAN ROBINSON | BRIAN UNDERWOOD | BROOKE FOSTER | BRUCE BELL | CARL MARUN FOURMILE | CAROLINE WEBB | CIGDEM AYDEMIR | CLAUDINE MARZIK | CRAIG KOOMEETA | CRISTINA BEVILACQUA | DANIE SAVAGE | DANISH QUAPOOR | DAPHNE DE JERSEY | DARREN BLACKMAN | DAVID BOSUN | DAVID JONES | DAVID MARSDEN | DEBRA MURRAY | DELISSA WALKER | DENNIS HUNTER | DERRICK BEAUT | DIAN DARMANSJAH | DJUMBURRU NYIWUL DANCERS | DJABUGAY ART CENTRE | DOLLY LOOGATHA | DONNA DAVIS | DOROTHY EDWARDS | DOROTHY GABORI | ED KOUMANS | EDDIE KEPPLER | EDMUND LAZA | EDWARD KOUMANS | EILEEN TEP | ELAINE MURRAY | ELISA JANE CARMICHAEL | ELIZABETH DUNN | ELIZABETH QUEENIE GIBLET | ELLA-ROSE SAVAGE | ELLIOT KOONUTTA | ELLIS ROAD FIBRE ART | ELSIE GABORI | ELVERINA JOHNSON | EMILY DOOLAH | EMILY MURRAY | EPHRAM WAIP | ESTELLE YUNKAPORTA | ESTHER FISCHER | ETHEL THOMAS | FAR NORTH STUDIO | FIONA ELISALA-MOSBY | FIONA FOLEY | FIONA OMEENYO | FLINTSTONE DESIGN | FLORA WARRIA | FLORA WOOLLA | FLOYD RILEY | FRANCOISE LANE | FRANKLIN MYE | GABI STURMAN | GABRIELLE COONEY | GEOFF DIXON | GEORGE GABEY | GEORGINA HOBBLER | GIRRINGUN ABORIGINAL ART CENTRE | GORDON HOOKEY | GRACE LILLIAN LEE | GRACE REID | HANNAH MURRAY | HANNAH PARKER | HEATHER TAIT | HELENA GABORI | HELEN GANALMIRRIWUY | HIROMI ASHLIN | HODA AFSHAR | IACA | INDIGEDSIGN LABS | INDIJ DESIGN | INKMASTERS CAIRNS | JAMAL BRODIE-CHONG | JAMAYLYA BALLANGARRY-KEARINS | JAYMEN DRAHM | JANE DENNIS | JANET FIELDHOUSE | JANET KOONGOTEMA | JANICE GHEE | JASMIN SEALE - DJ MAGIK CARPET RIDE | JEAN WALMBENG | JEANNIE HOLROYD | JEN BANKS | JENNY FRASER | JENNY VALMADRE | JILL CHISM | JOAN ROSS | JOASIA REDESTOWICZ | JOEL SAM | JOELENE ROUGHSEY | JOHN MURRAY | JOHN PULE | JOHN WILLIAMS | JON CAMPBELL | JONATHAN MCBURNIE | JOSAPHINE SEALE | JOSEPH AU | JOSEPH WATT | JOYCE SOOPRING | JUDY WATSON | JULIE MCENERNY | JULIE POULSEN | KAPUA GUTCHEN JNR | KARLA DICKENS | KASSANDRA SAVAGE | KATE HUNTER | KATE ROBERTSON | KAY WILLIAMS | KAYDEN PARKES | KEN THAIDAY SNR | KERRIE MILLER | KIM NOLAN | KIM RAYNER | KLARA ROYSTER | KLARE KUOLGA | KRISTIN TENNYSON | KYLA HEDANEK | LALANIA TUSA | LAURA CASTEL | LAUREL MCKENZIE | LAURIE NONA | LEAH MCBRIDE | LEANNE EMMIT | LEIGH HARRIS | LEIGH NAMPONAN | LENORE HOWARD | LEXI DE CORA | LIAM BENSON | LILLIAN FOURMILE | LINDA GORDON | LOIS HAYES | LOLA GREENO | LONE WHITE | LORNA SHAUN | LUCY SIMPSON | LUISA MANEA | LYNELLE FLINDERS | LYNETTE GRIFFITHS | MADGE BOWEN | MANDY BATJULA | MAREE KOO-OILA | MARGARET MARA | MARGERY ACCOOM | MARIA MORRISON | MARIA WARE | MARION GAEMERS | MARISA MOLLIN | MATILDA MALUJEWEL NONA | MEEKZ | MEL SORENSEN | MELANIA JACK | MELINDA NOIPO | MERINDI SCHRIEBER | MERSANE LOBAN | MICHAEL ANNING | MICHAEL MARZIK | MICHAEL NONA | MIDAVIAUX | MOA ARTS - NGALMUN LAGAU

## ARTISTS CONT.

**MINARAL** | **MOLLIE BOSWORTH** | **MORNINGTON ISLAND ART CENTRE - MIRNDIYAN GUNUNA** | MUSEUMS & GALLERIES OF NSW | MUSEUMS & GALLERIES QLD | **NANCY COWAN** | **NAPOLEAN OUI** | **NATALIA MANN** | **NATHANIEL MURRAY** | **NEIL BINNIE** | **NELL** | NEOLITHIC | **NEPHI DENHAM** | **NETTA LOOGATHA** | **NICHOLAS MILLS** | **NICKY VAN KLEEF** | **NINA JACKMAN** | **NINA LAVARINI DAWSON** | **NITA YUNKAPORTA** | **OLIVE TAU DAVIS** | **OLIVIA AZZOPARDI** | **PAM GALEANO** | **PATRICIA PICCININI** | **PATRICK BAIRA** | **PATRICK BUTCHER** | **PAULINE YARRAK** | **PAUL BONG** | **PAUL LESTER** | **PAULA SAVAGE** | **PETER MORRISON** | **PHILOMENA YEATMAN** | **POLLI** | **PRISCILLA ONG** | **RAQUEL ORMELLA** | **RAY CROOKE** | **RAYMOND CLARKE** | **RENEE WILSON** | **RHI JOHNSON** | **RHONDA STEVENS** | **RHONDA WOOLLA** | **RICHARD LEWER** | **ROBERT GIZU** | **ROBERT TOMMY PAU** | **ROBYN BAKER** | **ROBYN GLADE-WRIGHT** | **RODERICK NEWBURY** | **ROLAND NANCARROW** | **ROSANNE O'ROURKE** | **ROSE OMUNDSEN** | **ROSE RIGLEY** | **ROSELLA NAMOK** | **ROSEY CUMMINGS** | **ROSIE DEACON** | **ROSIE MILLER** | **ROSS CUMMINGS** | **ROXANNE THOMAS** | **RUBEN AMBRYM** | **RUBY NANDY** | **RUSSELL MILLEDGE** | **RUTH NALMAKARRA** | **RUTH SAVEKA** | **RYAN PRESLEY** | **SALLY MORONEY** | **SAM TUPOU** | **SAMUEL CLARMONT** | **SARAH JOHNSON** | **SAROMA GESA** | **SASI VICTOIRE** | **SHANNON BRETT** | **SHAWNEE MADE & FOUND** | **SHEREE JACOBS** | **SHERYL BURCHILL** | **SHERYL PAMULKAN** | **SHIN KOYAMA** | **SHIREEN TALIBUDEEN** | **SILAS HOBSON** | **SODA JERK (DAN AND DOMINIQUE ANGELORO)** | **SONJA CARMICHAEL** | **STEPHANIE TOBY** | **SUE MCFARLAND** | **SUE PASCOE** | **SUE WOOLDRIDGE** | **SUSAN BALBUNGA** | **SUSAN DOHERTY** | **SUZANNAH BABICCI** | **TAI INOUE** | **TAMIKA GRANT-IRAMU** | **TANIA MAJOR** | **TANYA CHAPMAN** | **TARQUIN SINGLETON** | **TEGAN KOSTER** | **TEHO ROPEYARN** | **TERENCE NEWMAN** | **TESS MAUNDER** | **THANCOUPIE GLORIA FLETCHER** | **THE SILVER FORGE** | **THERESA BEERON** | **TIM ELLIS** | **TONY ALBERT** | **TONY SCHWENSEN** | **TOPAZ SUSTAINABLE TIMBERS** | **VALMAI POLLARD** | **VANESSA CANNON** | **VERA KOOMEETA** | **VICTORIA PARK** | **VINCENT NAMATJIRA** | **WA YO WAY** | **WASIE TARDENT** | **WAYNE CONNOLLY** | **WENDY MOCKE** | **WENDY WAGNER** | **WIK WOMEN'S GROUP** | **WILD THINGS** | **WILLIAM RILEY** | **WILLIAM YANG** | **YANDELL WALTON** | **YARRABAH ART CENTRE** | **ZANE SAUNDERS**

**55 ARTSWORKERS** 75% First Nations representation in total artworkers cohort

**LEIGH HARRIS** | **SHEREE JACOBS** | **AISHAH KENTON** | **ADAM BOYD** | **PATTY PREECE** | **ASHLEIGH CAMPBELL** | **AVEN NOAH JR** | **BABETHA NAWIA (MOA ARTS)** | **BERELINE LOOGATHA (MIRNDIYAN GUNUNA - MORNINGTON ISLAND ART CENTRE)** | **BIANCA BOWMAN (CENTRE FOR PROJECTION ART | BRE CAPEL | CARLI WILLIS | DARREN CRAYN | DENNIS HUNTER (DJABUGAY ABORIGINAL CORPORATION) | FLORA AU (BADU ARTS) | FLORENCE GUTCHEN (ERUB ARTS) | GERI HENRICI (IACA) | GRACE LILLIAN LEE | HAROLD LUDWICK (IACA) | HEATHER KOOWOOTHU | HENRI VAN NORDENBURG | JAMAL BRODIE-CHONG | JAMAYLYA BALLANGARRY-KEARINS | JESS CREEK (YALANJI ARTS) | JILL CHISM | JOANN RUSSO (GIRRINGUN ABORIGINAL ART CENTRE) | JOHN ARMSTRONG (MIRNDIYAN GUNUNA - MORNINGTON ISLAND ART CENTRE) | JOHN MORSEAU (GAB TITUI CULTURAL CENTRE) | JUNIBEL DOUGHBOY (BANA YIRRIJI ART AND CULTURAL CENTRE, WUJUL WUJUL) | KIAN BOWEN (HOPE VALE ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE) | LAUREN CARTER | LAURIE NONA (BADU ARTS) | MARGARET MARA (WEI'NUM ARTS AND CRAFTS) | MARIA MORRISON (MINJIL) | MATILDA NONA (BADU ARTS) | MICHAEL MARZIK | NEPHI DENHAM (GIRRINGUN ABORIGINAL ART CENTRE) | NICK MILLS | RUSSELL MILLEDGE | NINA JACKMAN | PAULINE LAMPTON (MIRIKI PERFORMING ARTS) | REBECCA YOUDELL | ROSIE MILLER | SIMONE ARNOL | SOLOMON BOOTH | TAHMANA MISICK (MOA ARTS) | TARQUIN SINGLETON | TEHO ROPEYARN | VANESSA CANNON (YALANJI ARTS) | VIKKI BURROWS (BANA YIRRIJI ART AND CULTURAL CENTRE, WUJUL WUJUL) | EMMA LOBAN | DERRICK BEAUT | CARL FOURMILE | JAYMEN DRAHM | MEL SORENSEN | SEAN DAVEY | SUE REID | FREJA CARMICHAEL**



“

It has been wonderful working with the artists from Kowanyama. We've been looking at different types of exhibitions, sharing gallery processes, art handling rules, installation and art photography tips. These insights and art gallery experiences are practical and beneficial as these creatives get set to launch their first community exhibition in Kowanyama soon, and in anticipation of a future Art Centre.”

*Ashleigh Campbell*

ARTIST & EMERGING ARTSWORKER  
MATILDA AIDEN WITH NELL IN THE  
EXHIBITION *JUST NOT AUSTRALIAN*

AC/DC Altar Cloth (from chanting  
with amps), 2012, fabric and vintage  
t-shirts, 135 x 220 cm

NorthSite Contemporary Arts, Void  
Gallery 2021

Photo: Ashleigh Campbell

## CAREER PATHWAYS

### INDIGEDESIGN LABS

Supported by John T. Reid Trust, Ingenious Studios and Northsite Contemporary Arts

#### PARTICIPANTS

NATHANIEL MURRAY  
JANICE GHEE  
SEROMA GESA  
KAYDEN PARKES  
JAMAHL BRODIE-CHONG  
RAYMOND CLARK

#### MENTORS

LEIGH HARRIS  
TARQUIN SINGLETON  
SHAREE JACOBS

#### MENTOR & COORDINATOR

JAMAYLYA BALLANGARRY-KEARINS

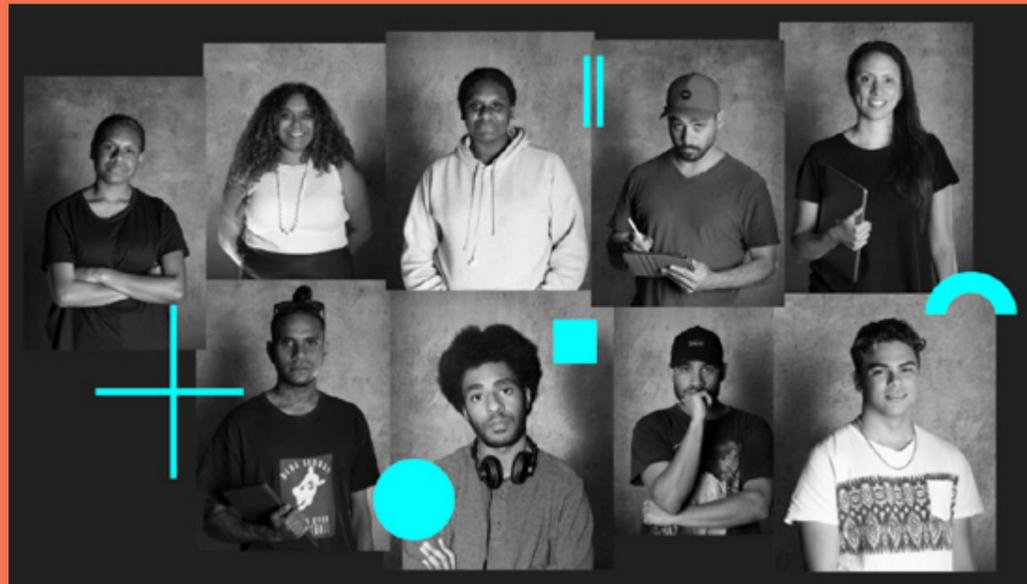


Image courtesy: IndigeDesign Labs

The second year of IndigeDesign Labs strengthened its presence as a creative learning program.

Seeking to introduce young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creatives to the digital design and creative fields through immersive storytelling the Lab is a confluence of art, design, technology, and the natural world.

2021 was a year of professional learning for the 10-person team who embarked on new journeys within the world of design, media, and technology with support from John T Reid Charitable Trust.

Along with regular weekly sessions, IndigeDesign Labs created Reconciliation Action Plans and designs for companies such as the Vocational Partnership Group (VPG) and Kinetic (Sunbus). The partnership with Ingeous Design Studios' Leigh Harris who is mentoring and assisting the team is teaching rules of design and techniques in media and marketing, providing support for the immense learning curve our participants experienced during this time.

The group celebrated 2021 NAIDOC Week with the theme "Heal Country!" by collaborating with Australian-based Illustration and technology powerhouse Procreate to bring a brand-new set of authentic Indigenous media brushes based on our home, Gimuy. IndigeDesign Labs was featured on the Procreate website and Instagram generating positive feedback and gaining exposure to an international audience.

Designing the digital brush set was our first experience at creating and selling through a global online platform. Bringing in returns and achieving the overall aim to design for an international platform, the opportunity showcased our emerging artists and Indigenous people's values confirming that we can create and thrive within lucrative, technological places/spaces. The team was also able to assist in media and marketing generation for local music festivals and performances such as 'Girrrls to The North', and our very own IndigeDesign Labs members 'Water Streets', expanding our presence within the local arts and music industry.

The team exceeded their own expectations and developed their skills throughout the year toward the third year. In 2022 we aim to produce new and exciting projects that cement our presence as a leading Indigenous creative force within Far North Queensland and continue to push the boundaries of what Indigenous people think and create within the creative, design and technology industry.

*Jamaylya Ballangarry-Kearins, IndigeDesign Labs  
Coordinator*



Artwork by Tarquin Singleton for Procreate using IndigeDesign Labs custom brushes

Image courtesy: IndigeDesign Labs

NORTHSITE STORE

“Despite low visitation on site at Bulmba-ja, 2021 boasted one of the **strongest returns for artists of Far North Queensland** in a decade.

This was achieved through quality artistic product, a sophisticated online shopping platform and the dedication of the NorthSite Store team led by Lauren Carter, supported by Jamaylya Ballangarry-Kearins in retail, Jamie Clarke in enhancing digital communications and the wider team.”

SHOP TRENDS

NorthSite’s Store as a social enterprise off-sets the cost of NorthSite programs and ensures that both Indigenous and non-Indigenous contemporary artists in Far North Queensland have an ethical site for the sale of their works.

In 2021 we sold out of the new Grace Lillian Lee weaves. Wasie Tardent’s woven leis made on Thursday Island were also a popular new item with locals and interstate visitors. Ceramics by local

makers continue to sell well, as does painter Julie Poulsen new line of canvas art handbags. The IACA publication *Belonging: Stories from Far North Queensland* is moving well as is the Pormpuraaw *Stories, Art and Language* Book. Indij Design’s perspex earrings, a new jewellery range by Francoise Lane inspired by the Black bean design of the Tropical Punk Backbacks exhibited at NorthSite this year are continuing to retailing well, as are Kim Nolan and Akiko Hanazaki ceramics.



NORTHSITE STORE

Photo: Cristina Bevilacqua

Retail sales in 2021 include Aurukun paintings selected by artists from the Akay Koo’ilia Woman’s Art Centre. Featuring a collection of works from the Wik Waterholes exhibition, several pieces were acquired for the Brisbane Children’s Hospital Collection.

Queensland Health also purchased Agnes Kohler’s *Mirraa Kamarra* from the *Legacies Living On* exhibition for the Townsville Hospital.

Robert Tommy Pau’s new edition of *Mabo* created as part of his exhibition celebrating the 150th anniversary of *The Coming of the Light*, sold very well through NorthSite during his exhibition and online thereafter.

Working with the Arone Meeks Estate, NorthSite has been able to support the wishes of the late artist’s family and

continue to ethically retail significant prints including a rare edition of the major piece ‘Celebration’ in 2021.

Renewed interest in the large-scale *Sageraw Thonar* artworks by artists from Badu, also saw a re-editing and sale of Laurie Nona’s *Malungu Apaz Sager Gimiya*.

New suppliers for 2021 included Kyla Hedanek, Tegan Koster, Paul Lester, Wassie Tardent, Akay Koo’ilia Women’s Studio painters, Alicia Sue See, Andrew Duffin, Flora Warriia and Rosey Cummings in addition to new works and suppliers who were invited to present works for the *Art Market: Print Edition*.

Overall, the NorthSite Store turned over more than \$240,000 in artwork sales in 2021. A solid result considering the global pandemic impact on tourism in Cairns and a lack of international visitors for the year.

ART MARKETS

The *NorthSite Art Market: Print Edition* celebrated a unique suite of contemporary printmakers, presenting over 200 new fine art prints for purchase by 39 regional Queensland artists in a sharp gallery format. The initiative engaged 16 new suppliers from Southeast Queensland, Townsville, Cairns and the Torres Strait with 72 prints sold, generating over \$7,000 in revenue. Money back into the pockets of artists.

Participating in local art markets saw NorthSite support key stakeholders initiatives. Providing broader NorthSite’s reach, UMI ARTS’s *Big Talk One Fire* cultural day and market in Fogarty Park and Cairns Indigenous Art Fair’s *Music in the Park* at Munro Martin Parklands saw reciprocal benefits in being part of these events celebrating community and culture. Exposure to different audience demographics, sharing cultural expression, and assisting artists to find a market, grew awareness of NorthSite’s team and brought emphasis to storytelling of the region.



NORTHSITE STORE

Akiko Hanazaki (right) and friends at the NorthSite Store

Photo: Cristina Bevilacqua

## NORTHSITE STORE CONT.

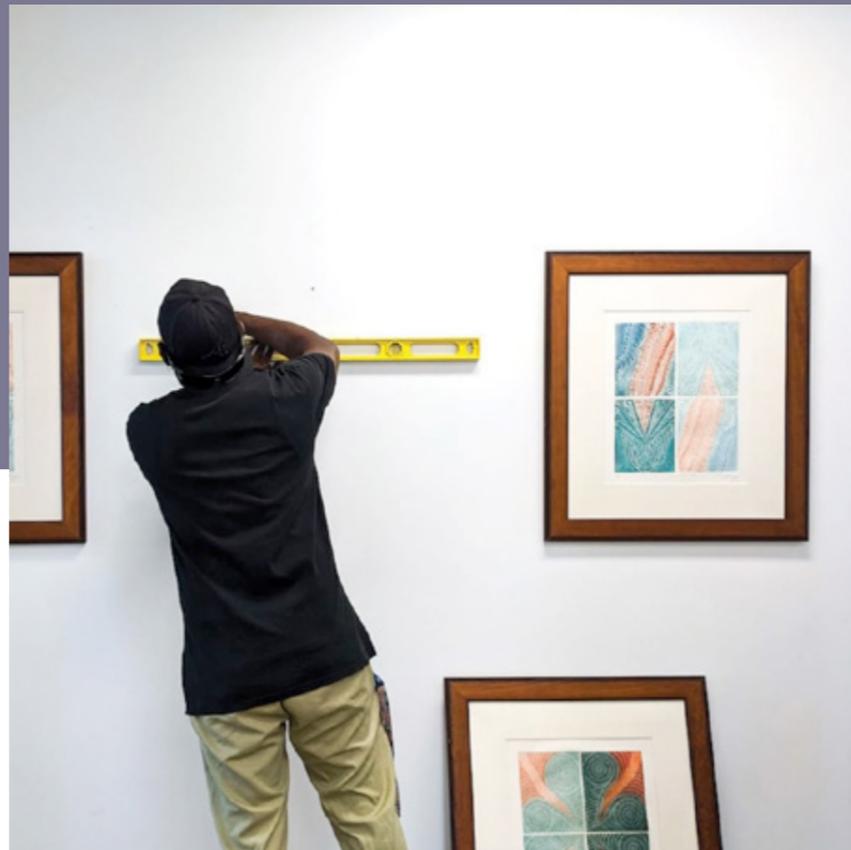
### MAJOR RETAIL PROJECTS

In 2021 C'Zarke Maza Commissioner and team for Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa met with NorthSite team to curate a collection of Torres Strait Islander artwork for the Commissioner's office in Cairns.

In August Aven Noah Jr (Curator) and Jamaylya (Gallery Officer) installed a selection of fine art prints in the Commissioner's office at the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. This loan provided the Office of the Commissioner with 14 sensitively curated and appropriate artworks by leading Torres Strait Islander artists including Billy Missi, Joel Sam, Matilda Nona, Joey Laifoo, Laurie Nona and Sam Savage.

A new partnership between NorthSite and Pullman Cairns International was project managed between Lauren Carter (NorthSite) & Monique Harmer (Pullman). The project saw the fitout of floors 3 - 11 during border closures with new artworks by local artists as part of the hotels major refurbishment. The approach was an Art Gallery style hang, using the lift lobby and guest rooms to showcase the work of Far North Queensland artists.

NorthSite commissioned Claudine Marzik, Roland Nancarrow, Netta Loogatha + Mornington Island collective: Bereline Loogatha, Dorothy Gabori, Helena Gabori, Pauline Yarrak, Dolly Loogatha, John Williams, Amy Loogatha, Ethel Thomas and Andrea Roughsey, arranging for the sale of original artworks for floor lobbies in addition to licensing of 6 smaller digital reproductions in the guest rooms. This commission returned over \$40,000 to artists in 2021.



#### AVEN NOAH JR.

Hanging Laurie Nona prints in the office of the commissioner

Photo: Jamaylya Ballangarry-Kearins

### NORTHSITE INDIGENOUS MERCHANDISE PROJECT – WA YO WAY

With support from the Regional Arts Fund, NorthSite teamed up with key emerging not-for-profit organisation First Nations Fashion + Design (FNFD) to design and launch a new collaborative range of Indigenous creative merchandising. Ten designs from Cairns, Cape York and Torres Strait Island independent artists - Lynelle Flinders (North Queensland), Elverina Johnson (Yarrabah), Emily Doolah (Horn Island) and Grace Lillian Lee (Cairns) brought the colours of the region to life through stories connecting culture, community and country.

Endemic to Far North Queensland, the Artists and Traditional Owners sharing of artwork stories transformed into high-quality, ethically produced Indigenous creative merchandise. The suite of sarongs, tea towels, and reusable market bags became an exciting new merchandise range, *Wa Yo Way* meaning yes, yes, yes, derived from Indigenous language utterances. Each artist through their connection to culture and Country explored tradition through new contemporary textile forms.

Previewing at the Brisbane Festival in September 2021 (featured on ABC's Art Works), FNFD's all indigenous fashion show *Walking Between Two Worlds* provided fantastic profiling; both Elverina and Grace's sarongs and bags were modelled on the runway.

The merchandise product range *Wa Yo Way* launched at the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair Market and the NorthSite's Store at Bulmba-ja and online.

NorthSite staff Lauren Carter and Youth Arts Pathway Program retail intern Jamaylya Ballangarry-Kearins worked closely with FNFD Director Grace Lillian Lee to ensure quality control and adhere to cultural protocols ensuring artist's intentions were recognised through artwork stories and artist biographies.

Special thanks to designer Hannah Murray, seamstress Gretchen Dickins and brand designer Jamie Clarke for their assistance.

*This project was made possible through the Regional Arts Fund an Australian Government initiative that supports sustainable cultural development in regional, remote and very remote Australia.*



#### NORTHSITE STORE

Lauren Carter with Grace Lillian Lee

Photo: Ashleigh Campbell

#### WA YO WAY MERCHANDISE

Photo: Michael Marzik



WA YO WAY MERCHANDISE

Photo: Michael Marzik

“

It's a giant step forward for Indigenous Textiles, since *UflaUpla* National Indigenous Textiles Forum' as part of CIAF Presents in 2013 to 2021 authentic Indigenous textiles being made available from artists in the Far North trajectory....priceless!”

Lynelle Flinders

## MARKETING

In 2021 NorthSite continued to build local and national awareness of our new brand and location within the Bulmba-ja Arts Centre. Our social and digital platforms are growing engagement with audiences, creating strong connections with community.

### LOCAL & NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

NorthSite received national exposure through 2021 to ensure visibility and engagement within the arts community. Placement in national publications Art Guide Australia, Art Collector and Vault Australasian Art + Culture Magazine and ArtsHub saw NorthSite profile stories from the region across Australia.

To reach our local audience we partnered with Tropic Group who connect Cairns locals and visitors with the latest news and information across print, digital and social media. Increasing our presence within

community advertising reinforces NorthSite at Bulmba-ja as an open and accessible contemporary arts organisation within Cairns. An advertising package was also confirmed locally with PakMag.

Situational advertising in Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort and Pullman Cairns International hotels digital info-displays and listing in tourism maps attracted visiting guests to Bulmba-ja once border restrictions eased.

Poster distribution through cafes and public notice boards in Cairns City, Tablelands and Port Douglas region assisted in reaching locals and tourists.

A marketing and visibility challenge remains with restricted NorthSite gallery signage potential upon Arts Queensland's Bulmba-ja building coupled with limited independent arts activities to be seen within the local media landscape, and Cairns Council's well-distributed Vibrance magazine highlighting solely the arts and cultural programs, projects and events delivered by Cairns Regional Council.



## MARKETING CONT.

### DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT



26.1%  
increased reach on Facebook



88.7%  
increased reach on Instagram

### PUBLICATIONS



7  
digital and print publications



11  
digital and print posters



20  
e-news publications connecting directly with our arts audience about gallery news and artist opportunities

### BEYOND THE SIGHT OF LAND

Artist talk by Lenore Howard for Blue Care Respite

Photo: Rosie Miller



## STATISTICS

### KEY PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

#### REACH

- 10,276 physical attendees/participants
- 60% new participation
- 105,276 digital facade viewers

#### QUALITY

- 150 high-quality arts activities relevant to Far North Queensland location
- 98% of attendees/participants rated the work good/excellent

#### IMPACT

- 24 Exhibitions (5 with online exhibitions & virtual series)
- 320 Artists in exhibitions & sales through NorthSite Store
- \$246K Paid to Artists, Artworkers and Arts businesses locally
- 55 Artworkers employed
- 10 Digital adaptations: activities delivered online
- \$209K Artwork sales

#### VIABILITY

**Income Matrix**

- 17%<sup>1</sup> Arts Queensland
- 16%<sup>2</sup> Private sector income
- 18%<sup>3</sup> Australia Council
- 23%<sup>4</sup> Earned income
- 19%<sup>5</sup> In-kind support (not including volunteer time value)
- 7%<sup>6</sup> Grants expended & Government other

## ORGANISATION

Board of Directors				
Director				
Curator	Programs Coordinator	Communications Officer	Executive Administrator	Retail Coordinator
	Programs Intern			Gallery Officer/ IndigeDesign Labs Coordinator
	Exhibitions Intern			Retail Intern

### NORTHSITE TEAM

Left to right: Aven Noah Jr, Rosie Miller, Ashleigh Campbell, Jamie Clarke, Rebecca Youdell, Lauren Carter

Photo: Cristina Bevilacqua



## GOVERNANCE

### NORTHSITE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 30% of Board members identify as First Nations people

#### MICHAEL COSGROVE (CHAIR)

Michael brings significant experience in corporate governance, finance and strategic planning to the Board. He has had a long career in investment banking and the corporate world. Michael was the CEO and Executive Director of Asian American Coal Inc. based in Beijing China. Previously, he was a Director of NM Rothschild and Sons (Hong Kong) responsible for executing merger and acquisition transactions in China.

#### MURRAY JONES

Murray has a Bachelor of Laws from JCU and worked for O'Reilly Stevens Lawyers for five years. Prior to this, he worked in Media Sales, as a Publisher and Commercial Photographer as a business owner. Sandwiched between this is his long-term occupation as a radio announcer for Grant Broadcasters.

#### DAVID MARSDEN

David has worked in secondary art education for over 25 years in Cairns with Education Queensland. He is currently the Vice President of the Peninsula Art Educators Association (PAEA) and heads the Department Visual Arts at Cairns State High School, a position he has held since 2007. He is actively involved in providing students and educators links to artist PD and has a keen interest in digital and new media.

#### MICHAEL MARZIK

Michael is an Austrian freelance photographer, born in Switzerland, now based in Cairns, Australia. After arriving in Cairns, he worked from 1994 as Artist-in-residence/Curator at the Tanks Arts Centre, Exhibitions Manager/Acting Director at the Cairns Regional Gallery (Cairns Art Gallery), Exhibition Designer at the Museum of Brisbane, Museum Development Officer for Queensland Museum and Installation Manager for the new Cairns Museum.

#### ANDREA HUELIN

Andrea is known for her still-life paintings of everyday household objects. She began her career as a journalist and broadcaster with ABC Radio and has worked in marketing and communications roles in public art institutions. Andrea has had several successful solo exhibitions and has taken part in group exhibitions in Australia and Germany, with her paintings included in the Commonwealth Government's Artbank Collection.

#### BRUCE PRIDEAUX

Bruce is Professor of Tourism, School of Business and Law, Central Queensland University. He is the author or editor of 11 books, 120 research articles and 84 book chapters. His interests include sustainability, climate change, marine and rainforest tourism, and regional tourism development.

#### JOHN STAFFORD

John has over 35 years' experience in the visual arts as a practising artist, gallery director, curator, lecturer, consultant, board member, bureaucrat, and peer assessor. His curatorial work has included both gallery exhibitions, art strategies and public art commissions. John's professional responsibilities have included a broad spectrum of visual arts including programs for grant funding, public art, design, and First Nations visual arts activity.

#### FRANCOISE LANE

Francoise Lane is a Torres Strait Islander woman whose maternal family are from Kerriri. She identifies as both Meriam and Kaurareg. She is married to Andrew Lane and together they are Indij Design; a 100% indigenous owned, award winning architectural and design practice based in Cairns and operating since 2011.

## GOVERNANCE

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### SINCERE THANKS TO OUR OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

#### **JULIE POULSEN**

Julie is an award-winning, studio-based artist and teacher. She has taught Visual Arts at TAFE Queensland North (1992-2015) and currently runs private classes with an emphasis on drawing. Julie has exhibited in Sydney, at The Corner Gallery ARI, Art Atrium in the Sydney Contemporary Art Fair in 2015 and 2017, and since 2007 at Depot Gallery.

#### **BRIAN ROBINSON**

Brian is a descendant of the Maluyligal/Wuthathi/Dayak peoples. Born on Waiben (Thursday Island) and now Cairns-based, Brian is internationally recognised for his printmaking and public sculptures in which he uses a variety of techniques to produce bold, innovative and distinctive works.

#### **SIMONE ARNOL**

Of Gunggandji and Sicilian heritage, Simone is the Manager of the Yarrabah Art & Cultural Precinct. She has curated the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) Fashion Performance for 3 years: 2018 - 2020. Simone is an artist, designer and seamstress, specializing in traditional dyeing techniques using up-cycled material.

## NORTHSITE TEAM

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38% of staff employed identify as First Nations people

#### **ASHLEIGH CAMPBELL | DIRECTOR**

Ashleigh has worked in curatorial and arts management roles for local government public galleries, artist-run organisations, festivals and contemporary art organisations, including the Biennale of Sydney. She managed daily operations of the new Australian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2015. Ashleigh trained in studio practice at art school, majoring in visual culture, sculpture and printmaking. She holds a Bachelor of Visual Arts and a Masters in Art Curatorship.

#### **LAUREN CARTER | RETAIL COORDINATOR**

Lauren comes from a strong retail and arts background with over 8 years of combined experience in both fields; including roles at Melbourne Etching Supplies and Umbrella Studios Contemporary Arts. She was a co-founder of artist run initiative Murky Waters Studio in Townsville. She has a BFA (Printmaking) and an Advanced Diploma in Jewellery Design. Her industry experience as an editioning printmaker and active printmaking practice have fostered her ongoing interest in contemporary printmaking. A current member of the Cairns printmaking community, Lauren is a committee member of InkMasters Cairns.

#### **ROSIE MILLER | PROGRAMS & EDUCATION COORDINATOR**

Rosie is an experienced artist with a demonstrated history of working in the Arts and Education Industry. She has skills in printmaking, sculpture, kinetic art, large scale interactive installations and Art Education. Rosie is an active Art and Design professional with a Bachelor of Fine Arts majoring in Printmaking from Victorian College of the Arts, The University of Melbourne.

#### **CARLI WILLIS | INDIGEDESIGN LAB COORDINATOR AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Of Kubin (Moa Island), English and Irish heritage, Carli has a Bachelor of Communications in Journalism and Public Relations. She works as a freelance journalist and communications professional where she has developed strengths in multimedia production, writing, editing and creative thinking.

## NORTHSITE TEAM CONT.

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#### **REBECCA YOUDELL | EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR**

Rebecca has a Bachelor of Fine Art (Dance) cum laude, high honours (USA), a Masters of Arts in visual and performing arts (Aus) and a Graduate Certificate (Business Administration). Rebecca has held managerial and board roles and is an artist, advisor, consultant, mentor, peer assessor, researcher and strategic planner. Rebecca is co-director of Bonemap - creative intermedia arts established in 1998.

#### **AVEN NOAH JR | GALLERY OFFICER & CURATOR**

Aven is an alumni of the National Gallery of Australia's Indigenous Arts Leadership program (2015) and has over 14 years experience, working as Gallery Officer at Gab Titui Cultural Centre, Thursday Island since 2006. Growing up on Thursday Island and hailing from the Eastern Island of Mer (Murray Island), he approaches his work with deep understanding, respect and observance of cultural protocols. Aven has worked on major exhibitions and touring show including Evolution: Torres Strait Masks exhibition (2017-2020), Mer Contemporary Black Bamboo Project (NGV, CAG, GTCC), Gab Titui Indigenous Art Awards (2015-2018), Cairns Indigenous Art Fair and Darwin Aboriginal Art Fairs.

#### **JAMIE CLARKE | COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**

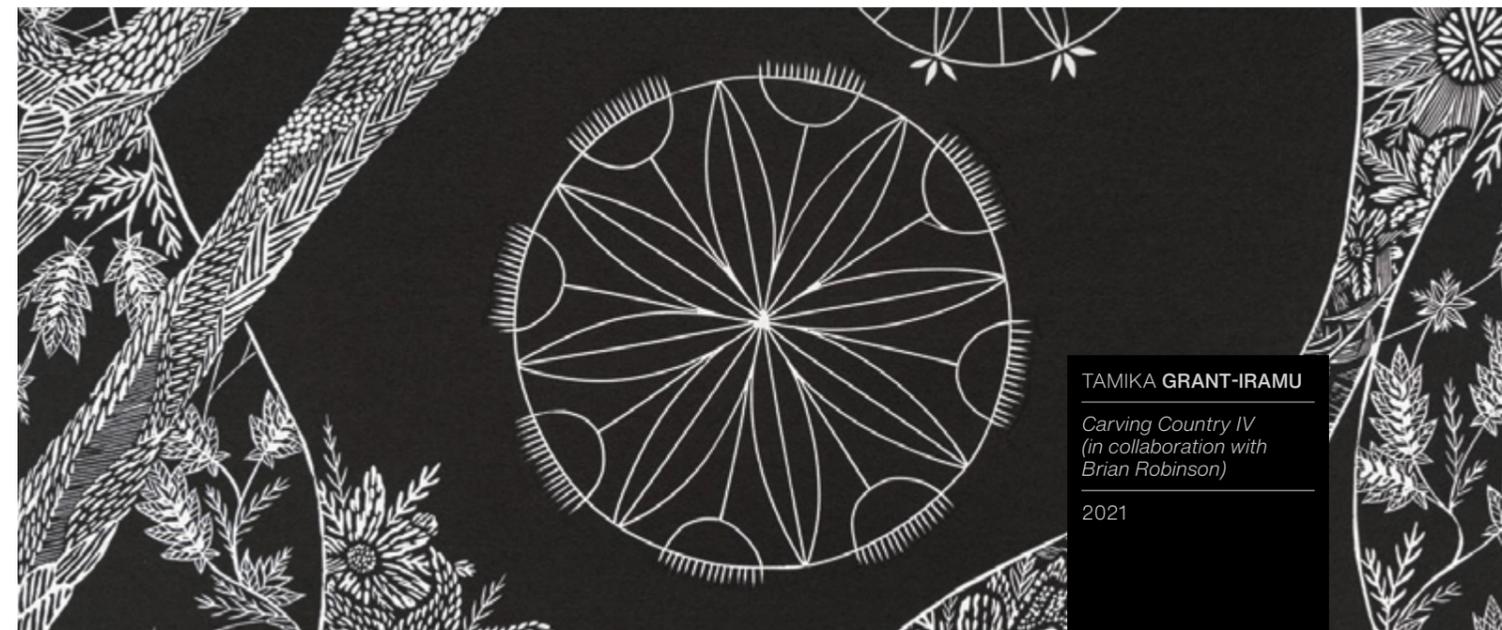
Jamie is a high-performing design professional with a Bachelor of Computer Based Design from the University of the Sunshine Coast that has worked with a number of large organisations to develop innovative design collateral. He has strong design and project management skills, vast experience in branding, marketing, website design, email marketing, social media, print and digital design. Jamie is passionate about bringing designs and brands to fruition through creative solutions that make a difference.

#### **JAMAYLYA BALLANGARRY-KEARINS | GALLERY OFFICER/ INDIGEDESIGN LABS COORDINATOR**

Jamaylya is a proud Djabugay and Gumbangirr woman who has a keen interest in art, design, and culture. She studied at the University of NSW's College of Fine Art (COFA) and has worked at Tjapukai Cultural Park. Commencing as a paid intern at the start of the year, she now supports retail and gallery operations at NorthSite. Jamaylya is the coordinator of IndigeDesign Labs, a NorthSite and Ingeous Design Studios initiative that introduces young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to digital design and the creative industries through the culturally safe learning space of an Indigenous creative lab.

#### **INTERNS (DECEMBER 2020 - MAY 2021)**

Jamaylya Ballangarry-Kearins (retail) - Aishah Kenton (prorgams) - Caitlin Dobson (exhibitions)



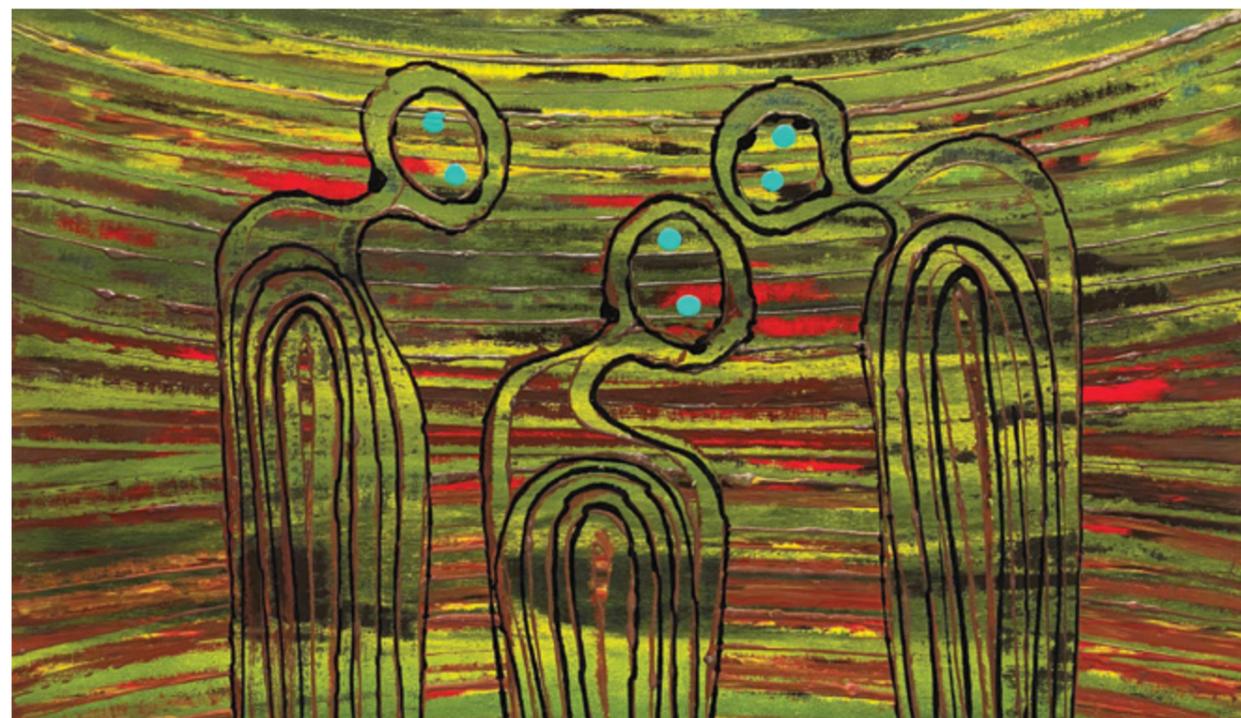
TAMIKA GRANT-IRAMU

*Carving Country IV  
(in collaboration with  
Brian Robinson)*

2021

## FINANCIALS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE at 31 DECEMBER 2021	\$ 2021	\$ 2020
<b>INCOME</b>		
Revenue	1,121,334.63	813,126.37
Other income	-	3,216.49
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>1,121,334.63</b>	<b>816,342.86</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Changes in inventories of finished goods and work in progress	(15,377.45)	(43,209.68)
Raw Materials and consumables used	(19,152.00)	(22,419.56)
Advertising expenses	(24,050.26)	(28,481.12)
Auditor	(5,500.00)	(5,500.00)
Depreciation and amortisation	(19,751.57)	(20,002.40)
Employee benefits	(402,635.17)	(283,015.44)
Other expenses	(454,035.81)	(350,903.00)
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>(940,502.26)</b>	<b>(753,531.20)</b>
<b>PROFIT FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>180,832.37</b>	<b>62,811.66</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>180,832.37</b>	<b>62,811.66</b>



FIONA OMEENYO

*Spirits of the land (detail), acrylic on canvas, 1220 x 915 mm*

## FINANCIALS CONT.

FINANCIAL POSITION at 31 DECEMBER 2021	\$ 2021	\$ 2020
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	568,701.41	452,937.82
Trade and other receivables	24,541.56	16,183.50
Inventories	190,523.80	160,023.33
Other assets	4,285.45	3,563.21
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>788,052.22</b>	<b>632,707.86</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	35,840.78	41,147.05
Other assets	441,191.00	441,191.00
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>477,031.78</b>	<b>482,338.05</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,265,084.00</b>	<b>1,115,045.91</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and other payables	68,367.16	53,130.67
Other liabilities	172,508.78	227,130.15
Provisions	20,762.70	18,551.17
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>261,638.64</b>	<b>298,811.99</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Provisions	6,379.07	-
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>6,379.07</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>268,017.71</b>	<b>298,811.99</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>997,066.29</b>	<b>816,233.92</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Reserves	212,822.91	212,822.91
Retained earnings	784,243.38	603,411.01
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>997,066.29</b>	<b>816,233.92</b>

## PARTNERSHIPS

### STRATEGIC ARTS PARTNERSHIPS



NorthSite is providing new opportunities to Queensland artists through forging strategic partnerships with QAGOMA, Situate: Art In Festivals, Artisan, IACA, CIAF and Outer Space. These partnerships extend opportunities for regional artists to participate in national dialogues.”

Discussions regarding hosting flagship QAGOMA programs in partnership with NorthSite will see programs like *Design Tracks* which is usually delivered in Brisbane, come to the Cairns and Far North Queensland region in 2022.

A partnership with Situate: Art in Festivals will see one Queensland-based contemporary artist undertake the *SITUATE 22-23* program designed to address a growing global trend among artists interested in generating a diverse range of art experiences that reflect both their distinctive identities and their relationship to place and community.

Our partnership with Outer Space will enable selected local artists Melania Jack and Robert Tommy Pau to participate in the *SUPERCUT* programing, seeing development and presentation of new works in the Outer Space Window Gallery at Judith Wright Arts Centre, Brisbane, online and upon billboards across the state.

NorthSite is working with Artisan in Brisbane to support Queensland regional designers and craftspersons build their profile and gain wider recognition of their practice, through the *UNLEASHED* program.

FREJA CARMICHAEL

Curator talk for *long water: fibre stories*

Photo: Cristina Bevilacqua



## 106 INDUSTRY PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

### MANY THANKS TO:

Moa Arts - Ngalmun Lagau Minaral | ABC Radio | Akay Koo'ila Women's Art Centre | Art Almanac | Art Guide | Artisan | Artist Profile Magazine | Artlink | Artlink Magazine | Arts Queensland | Artshub | Aurukun Art Centre | Australia Council for the Arts | Australian Tropical Herbarium | Badu Art Centre | Bana Yirriji Art Centre | Bulmba-ja | Bunnings | Cairns Art Society | Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) | Cairns Museum | Cairns Regional Council | Call of the Running Tide Festival | Central Queensland University | Centre for Projection Art | Citizens of the Great Barrier Reef | Crystalbrook Hotels | Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP) | Djabugay Art Centre | Djarragun College | Bonemap | End Credit Film Club | Envelope Group | Expressway Signage | First Nations Fashion Design (FNFD) | Flying Arts Alliance | Gab Titui Cultural Centre | George Washington University | Giringun Aboriginal Corporation | IAS Art Transport | Igneous Studios | Indige Design Labs | Indigenous Art Centre Alliance (IACA) | Indij Design | InkMasters Cairns | Innisfail State High School | Institute of Modern Art | James Cook University | JCU Tropical Urbanism and Design Lab | John T Reid | Kinetic (Sunbus) | Kowanyama Arts Group | Kuranda District State College | Mama Coco | Mel Sorensen Art Conservation | Melanin Haus | Miller Harris Lawyers | Minjil | Miriki Performing Arts | Mornington Island Art Centre, Mirndiyan Gununa | Museums & Galleries OF NSW | Museums and Galleries of NSW (MAGNSW) | Museums and Galleries Queensland | Newcastle Art Gallery | Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort | Office of the Commissioner (Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa) | Outer Space | Pacific Centre for Photographic Arts | PakMag | Peninsula Art Educators Association (PAEA) | Pormpuraaw Art & Culture Centre | Prestige Painting Services | Procreate | Pullman Cairns International | Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art | Queensland Museum Network | Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority | Segue Fine Art Transport | Shiny Shiny | Situate: Art in Festivals | Smithfield State High School | St Andrews Catholic College | St Gerard Mejella Primary School | Studio Sol | Tablelands Regional Council | TAFE Queensland North | Tanks Art Centre | The 5Five | The Cairns Historical Society and Cairns Museum | The Ian Potter Foundation | The National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA) | The Photo Corner | The Picture Framer | Trinity Anglican School (TAS) | Trinity Bay State High School | Tropic Now | UMI Arts | University of Sunshine Coast | Vault Magazine | Vault: Australasian Art & Culture Magazine | Visual Imaging | Wei' Num Arts | Wik and Kugu Arts Centre | Yalanji Arts | Yarrabah Art Centre



THE WORLD AROUND US

Curated by Aven Noah Jr.

School tour:  
Mossman State High School

Photo: Rosie Miller



**NORTH SITE**  
Contemporary  
Arts

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**BULMBA-JA ARTS CENTRE**

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96 ABBOTT STREET  
CAIRNS QLD 4870 AUSTRALIA

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ABN: 25 105 853 987

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+61 7 4050 9494

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hello@northsite.org.au

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[northsite.org.au](http://northsite.org.au)

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[shop.northsite.org.au](http://shop.northsite.org.au)



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**PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS**

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John T Reid Charitable Trusts

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The Ian Potter Foundation



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**ORGANISATIONAL  
FUNDING PARTNERS**



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NorthSite is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

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NorthSite is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

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NorthSite Contemporary Arts Limited is assisted by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments.



NorthSite Contemporary Arts is a registered not-for-profit charitable organisation. **Donations over \$2 are tax deductible** and help us to **support artists** into the future.