

FNQ INDIGENOUS ARTS CENTRES AND HUBS TO JOIN GALLERIES AT CIAF

For the first time, Indigenous art centres and hubs from throughout Cape York and the Torres Strait will join national galleries and professional artists at the inaugural Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF).

CIAF General Manager Ingrid Hoffmann said the Art Fair, 21-23 August at Tanks Arts Centre, was a unique opportunity for Far North Queensland's emerging artists to reach a local, national and international audience.

"CIAF will play a pivotal role in building the Indigenous arts industry in Far North Queensland by supporting newcomers and raising the profile of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and culture," Ms Hoffmann said.

"It will provide a valuable opportunity for the artists to meet, share their skills and develop creative networks.

"There will be eight art centres at CIAF giving art lovers and collectors a truly unique opportunity to discover and buy works from Far North Queensland's emerging Indigenous artists. In a great boost for their careers, it will also mean these emerging artists will be able to sell their work alongside premier galleries and professional artists in their own region."

Ms Hoffmann said their presence at CIAF highlights the important link between arts centres, communities and some of Far North Queensland's most successful artists.

"Indigenous art centres play a very strong role in Far North Queensland communities, as well as being a workplace for artists, they are meeting places for elders to share their knowledge and stories," Ms Hoffmann said.

"The centres and hubs provide artists with studio space, materials, instruction and opportunities to develop their craft."

The Queensland Government, through Arts Queensland, has invested \$4.42 million over four years in Indigenous art centres and hubs in the far north region..

The funding helps art centres become strong contributors to productive communities by supporting training and business planning and through the purchase of equipment and accommodation for art centre coordinators.

It is part of the Queensland Government's four-year \$10.73 million Backing Indigenous Arts program (2007-2010) to invest in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts industry.

The Indigenous art centres and hubs at CIAF are:

Mornington Island Arts
Lockhart River Art Centre
Hope Vale Arts & Cultural Centre
Kuku Yulanji Dreamtime Art Gallery (Mossman Gorge)
Girringun Aboriginal Art Centre (Cardwell)
Erub Erwer Meta (Darnley Island)
Western Cape Indigenous Arts Hub (Weipa)
Gab Titui (Thursday Island).

Cairns Indigenous Art Fair is a major initiative of the Queensland Government delivered by Arts Queensland, the Indigenous Business Development Unit and the Queensland Indigenous Arts Marketing and Export Agency (QAIMEA). Cairns Regional Council is a principal partner of CIAF.

Media contact: Jon Adams on 3234 1238 jon.adams@arts.qld.gov.au