

GALA ART PARTY TO OPEN CAIRNS INDIGENOUS ART FAIR

The irresistible rhythms of the Torres Strait and the ancient storytelling of the Aurukun Songmen will mark the opening of the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) on 20 August – Australia’s newest art fair and a first for the North.

A headline event of Festival Cairns, CIAF opens with its gala ‘Art Party in the Tropics’ on Thursday night giving guests the chance to be among the first to buy art work from Queensland’s best Indigenous artists before the public opening Friday 21-Sunday 23 August.

CIAF Director Michael Snelling said the Opening Event will bring together art, music, dance, fusion cuisine and fine wine, giving guests a complete cultural experience.

He said Premier and Minister for the Arts Anna Bligh will officially open CIAF earlier in the evening, with the Art Fair, Exhibition and concert opening at 7pm.

CIAF Patrons, the Governor of Queensland Ms Penelope Wensley and Cape York Elder Thanakupi AO, will also be part of the official opening.

“The opening night of an art fair is an exciting event when the exhibiting galleries offer the art work for the first time,” Mr Snelling said.

“We hope to attract investors from across Australia because galleries, art centres and the exhibition at CIAF will be selling new art work from some of the nation’s most collectable artists, including Rosella Namok, Dennis Nona, Sally Gabori, Tony Albert and Samantha Hobson.

“The Opening Event will also be a great night out for all with performances from David Hudson, King Kadu, the Aurukun Songmen and Dancers and the Kulkal Baba (Blooded Feather) Dancers.”

CIAF is a unique model in world art fairs, bringing together 11 leading commercial galleries from across Australia and eight Indigenous art centres from Cape York and the Torres Strait to sell art work by more than 100 artists.

Art work on sale includes paintings, prints, sculpture, photography and new media.

A special Early Bird offer of two tickets for \$75 is now available for the Opening Event, with individual tickets priced at \$50. Ticket prices include two complimentary drinks and taste plate of Indigenous fusion cuisine.

To purchase tickets contact Ticketlink at www.ticketlink.com.au or 1300 855 835. To find out more about CIAF visit www.ciaf.com.au

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.

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