



**CAIRNS
INDIGENOUS
ART FAIR
2009**

FNQ ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ARTISTS ON WORLD STAGE

Fact 1: Art lovers in New York queued up to have Rosella Namok sign autographs at the opening of the *Our Way* exhibition in October 2007 at Stony Brook University on Long Island.

Our Way: Contemporary Aboriginal Art from Lockhart River was a major exhibition and accompanying publication surveying the development of the Lockhart River Gang from primary school students to internationally acclaimed artists. It showed in Brisbane, New York and Singapore.

Fact 2: The prestigious Musee du Quai Branly in Paris and the Queensland Art Gallery have each purchased a painting by Mornington Island octogenarian Sally Gabori. Gabori's colourful interpretations of her home on Bentick Island are a hit with collectors nationally and internationally. She first picked up a paint brush just three years ago!

Fact 3: Lockhart River Gang artists Rosella Namok, Samantha Hobson, Fiona Omeenyo, Silas Hobson and Adrian King have exhibited in Italy, France, England, USA and South Korea.

Fact 4: Samantha Hobson of the Lockhart River Art Gang flew to England last year to attend the opening of her first overseas solo exhibition hosted by London's October Gallery. The exhibition was a great success with the National Museum of Scotland purchasing two of Samantha's paintings.

Fact 5: Badu Island printmaker Dennis Nona has joined Lockhart River artist Rosella Namok on *Australian Art Collector's* 2009 list of '50 of Australia's Most Collectable Artists'.

Fact 6: One-time pearl diver Dennis Nona's intricate carvings and linoprints won him the 2007 Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander art award. Dennis' work is showing in New York in January and he is also exhibiting in Berlin until November.

Fact 7: The ancient wood-carving techniques used by Torres Strait Islanders to decorate canoes and traditional art works have been taken up by contemporary Torres Strait artists and transferred to lino to create the stunning prints that are making Billy Missi and Alick Tipoti highly collectable.

Fact 8: Alick Tipoti's solo show in London opened this month and a work was immediately purchased by the British Museum and his work features in an exhibition in New York in January next year.

Fact 9: Queensland Art Gallery has purchased three works by Torres Strait Islander artist Billy Missi.

Fact 10: Ceramic artist Dr Thancoupie, Gloria Fletcher James AO, was named a Queensland Great by Premier Anna Bligh in Queensland Week 2008.