



### MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

For three days in August 2009, the inaugural Cairns Indigenous Art Fair will bring artists, arts centres, galleries, collectors, buyers, lovers of Indigenous art, writers, thinkers and performers together to experience and buy the Indigenous arts of Queensland.

This focus on Indigenous artists, both contemporary and traditional, and the accompanying symposium, performances and workshops make the annual Cairns Indigenous Art Fair like no other art fair.

Indigenous artists in, or from, Queensland are producing a rich diversity of powerful work, ranging from the polemical to the lyrical, using media from paint to pixels and operating locally and internationally. In recent years, several artists from Tropical North Queensland have announced their presence with forceful, sophisticated work that enlarges the understanding of Australian art. Using local stories and traditional and introduced techniques, they have rapidly signalled the emergence of new, developing art that resonates with other artists, curators and the public.

Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, a major initiative of the Queensland Government, will bring much of this exhilarating work together for sale in a context that informs and inspires. Many of the key issues entwined with Indigenous arts in Australia will be the subject of the symposium program.

Cairns Indigenous Art Fair will become a favourite winter meeting place for art lovers from across the globe.

I look forward to seeing you there.

### MICHAEL SNELLING

Director

