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### **CAIRNS TO SHOWCASE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ARTISTS**

Work by world-renowned artists Sally Gabori, Dennis Nona, Alick Tipoti, Tony Albert, Judy Watson and Samantha Hobson will feature at the first Cairns Indigenous Art Fair.

Premier Anna Bligh said the new event will take place between 21-23 August and welcomed the addition to Queensland's cultural landscape.

"This is a milestone cultural event for Queensland, celebrating our unique Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and culture," she said.

"Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) brings leading Australian galleries and Queensland Indigenous Art Centres together in a single location to sell and showcase the state's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.

"The event has also attracted one of Queensland's most successful performers, Christine Anu, who will headline the Friday night concert alongside up and coming North Queensland band Zennith and emerging stars King Kadu (Ricardo Idagi) and Will Kepa."

The Premier said the event is part of the State Government's \$10.73 million *Backing Indigenous Arts* program to strengthen Far North Queensland's Indigenous arts industry and will feature an art fair, exhibitions, performances and an industry symposium.

"Over the next four years, in partnership with the Australian Government, we will invest \$1 million in CIAF to profile the state's Indigenous artists to a new audience of national and international art collectors," she said.

"CIAF will also play an important role in bringing cultural tourists and Indigenous arts enthusiasts to Cairns and Tropical North Queensland.

"It will give artists new avenues to sell their work and will contribute to a more sustainable arts industry."

Cairns Mayor Val Schier said CIAF was an exciting new addition to Festival Cairns, with the art fair's Friday night concert on 21 August marking the start of the festival.

"The Tanks Arts Centre will be a brilliant setting to showcase Indigenous art and we are sure the event will be successful in this venue," Ms Schier said.

Director Michael Snelling said: "CIAF would be a new experience for collectors and the curious, offering unparalleled access to art work from Queensland's known and emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists."

Entry to the exhibition and art fair is free. Tickets are now on sale for the opening event (\$50), CIAF Symposium (\$150) and Friday night concert (\$35). For ticket details and full a list of participating galleries and artists visit [www.ciaf.com.au](http://www.ciaf.com.au)

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