

CAIRNS INDIGENOUS ART FAIR 2009

Insight Anecdote Investigation

CIAF Symposium Program

Friday 21 August 2009

8am	Registration
8.30am	Welcome to Country by Seith Fourmile
8.40am	Welcome by Desley Boyle MP, Minister for Local Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
8.50am	Introduction by Professor Robin Woellner, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Law, Business and the Creative Arts, James Cook University
9-10am	Judy Watson: <i>The Artist's Journey</i>
10-10.30am	Morning Tea

Parallel paper sessions

10.30am	Jute Theatre – Ian McLean: <i>The Aboriginal conquest of the art world: How it all began 30 years ago</i> Upper Gallery – Theo Tremblay: <i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Printmaking - the first 20 years</i>
11am	Jute Theatre – Trish Barnard: <i>The Appropriation of Indigenous Motif and its influence on contemporary arts and crafts</i> Upper Gallery – Michelle Evans: <i>Courageous Conversations</i>
11.30am	Jute Theatre – Russell Milledge: <i>Originality and Representation: Contemporary aesthetics and traditional continuity in the work of Billy Missi and Arone Meeks</i> Upper Gallery – Alec O'Halloran: <i>How may Indigenous artists' biographies be written for a contemporary Australia?</i>
12noon-1pm	Lunch and Gallery tours
1- 2pm	Nicholas Rothwell: <i>Indigenous Art in Northern Australia</i>
2-3.30pm	Artists' Panel: <i>What are the issues affecting Indigenous artists and the people they work with?</i> Chair Jeremy Geia. Panel Members: Andrea Fisher; Judy Watson; Charles Street; Richard Bell; and Billy Missi
3:30-4pm	Afternoon Tea
4- 5pm	Plenary Panel: <i>What is the vision for CIAF and what is on the horizon for Indigenous contemporary arts?</i> Chair Ian McLean. Panel Members: Tony Albert; Cameron Costello; Avril Quail; and Trudie Broderick
5pm	Symposium close

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Speaker profiles

Tony Albert

Tony Albert is a Brisbane-based visual artist. He was a NEWflames program awardee in the Campfire Group Studios in Brisbane. In his artistic practice, he explores representations of Indigenous Australian people, particularly wordplay and manipulations of language to examine the alienation and displacement of Indigenous people. Tony is interested in the artistic applications of new media in his practice. He is a member of the proppaNow artist collective in Brisbane.

Trish Barnard

Trish Barnard is the Senior Curator, Indigenous Studies in the Cultures and Histories program at Queensland Museum. She has experience in the interpretation of collections and the curation of exhibitions, and co-curated, with Peter Denham, the first major survey exhibition of art from Cape York, *Story Place: Indigenous Art of Cape York and the Rainforest* at the Queensland Art Gallery (2003). She contributed to the successful 'Dandiiri Maiwar: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures Centre' at the Queensland Museum, and the 'Enchanted Rainforest' at the Museum of Tropical Queensland, Townsville. She is interested in new developments and innovations within the industry and regularly writes for exhibition catalogues, commentary on contemporary Indigenous art issues and embraces opportunities to enhance public understanding. Trish is an Honorary Research Adviser with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Studies Unit at University of Queensland, and is continuing her Masters studies through James Cook University.

Richard Bell

Richard Bell was born in 1953 in Charleville, South West Queensland and was a member of the Campfire group. He was awarded the Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award for 2003. Richard has been curated into a number of key exhibitions including his solo show, *Positivity*, at the Institute of Modern Art in 2006, the National Gallery of Australia's first Indigenous Art Triennial, *Culture Warriors* in 2007, *Sunshine State – Smart State* at Campbelltown Arts Centre in Western Sydney in

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2007, the Art Gallery of New South Wales' photographic exhibition, Half Light: Portraits from Black Australia in 2008 and the 2008 Biennale of Sydney, Revolutions: Forms that Turn, showing his work on Cockatoo Island on Sydney Harbour. He has also presented a number of solo exhibitions at Milani Gallery in Brisbane where he is represented. He is a founding member of the proppaNOW artist collective in Brisbane where he lives.

Trudie Broderick

Indigenous Legal Services Officer Arts Law Centre of Australia. Arts Laws' Artists in the Black program provides free legal advice to Indigenous artists and arts organisations.

Cameron Costello

Cameron Costello is the principal project officer responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of Arts Queensland's Backing Indigenous Arts Initiative. Backing Indigenous Arts is a four-year, \$10.73 million program dedicated to strengthening the Indigenous arts industry of Far North Queensland from production to market.

Michelle Evans

Michelle Evans is the Head of the Wilin Centre for indigenous Arts and Cultural Development at the Faculty of the Victorian College of the Arts and Music (University of Melbourne). Michelle comes from the Hunter Valley in New South Wales. For the past 15 years, she has worked across the arts and cultural sector and was instrumental in the establishing the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Network, Ngorekah Aboriginal Theatre, 3KND and the Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development.

Michelle holds a Bachelor in Communications (Theatre/Media), a Graduate Diploma in Arts Management and a Master of Creative Arts (Research). Michelle is currently studying towards her PhD at the Melbourne Business School, focusing on Indigenous leadership in the Arts.

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Andrea Fisher

Born in Brisbane, Andrea Fisher is from the Birri-Gubba people of central Queensland. Although specialising in jewellery, Andrea is primarily a visual artist interested in applying a sense of Aboriginal history to the materials and aesthetic of jewellery making, object and installation. Andrea studied Contemporary Australian Indigenous Art at the Queensland College of Art, Griffith University, and has exhibited in numerous galleries including the Queensland Art Gallery. Andrea is a member of the artist collective proppaNOW.

Jeremy Geia

Jeremy Geia is an award-winning journalist and festival director. Beginning his media career as a cadet with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Jeremy has been awarded the National Louis St Johnson Media Award for the best coverage of an Indigenous Issue (1996) and in 1999 was named National Indigenous Youth of the Year. More recently, he produced the Postcards from Pormpuraaw series (2008) which ran on ABC TV's Message Stick program. Jeremy is also the Director of the nation's largest Indigenous dance event, the Laura Festival.

Ian Mclean

Ian Mclean is an Associate Professor at the University of Western Australia. Recent projects include in an edited anthology of writing on Aboriginal art since 1980 titled *How Aborigines Invented the Idea of Contemporary Art* (Power Publications and the Institute of Modern Art, forthcoming).

Russell Milledge

Russell Milledge is a PhD student, coordinator of the Bachelor of Creative Industries degree and Lecturer at the School of Creative Arts, James Cook University. He is a founder and previous Deputy Director of KickArts Contemporary Arts at the Cairns, Centre of Contemporary Arts, where he continues to provide research and consultative support through ongoing curatorial projects. Recent highlights have been the exhibitions *Blak Roots*, *Billy Missi – Urapun Kai Buai*, and *Ailan Currents – Contemporary Printmaking from the Torres Strait*. Russell is the Co-Artistic Director of Bonemap a cross-cultural intermedia arts company and Co-producer of the On Edge Contemporary Media and Performance Festival in Cairns. Russell holds a Master of Fine Arts from Queensland University of Technology.

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Billy Missi

Born in 1970 in the Torres Strait Islands, Billy Missi is one of the founding members of Mualgau Minaral Artist Collective, the first printmaking facility based in Kubin Village and a pioneer project in the Torres Strait. He has exhibited successfully throughout the region, nationally and internationally. His works of art are held in prestigious international collections including the Victoria and Albert Museum (U.K), Cambridge Museum of Anthropology (U.K) and University of British Columbia (Canada). Billy has held numerous solo and group exhibitions and is considered one of the leading artists of the Zenadh Kes printmaking movement.

Alec O'Halloran

Alec O'Halloran is a PhD research student in the Research School of Humanities at The Australian National University. He has embarked on a study of the life and art of Mick Namarari Tjapaltjarri (c1926-1998), a significant Papunya Tula artist. This project has the authorisation and support of the Papunya Tula Artists Company, of which Tjapaltjarri was a founding shareholder at Papunya in 1972. Alec's particular interest in Papunya Tula art was initiated in 1995 and developed through regular trips to central Australia and art exhibitions around Australia. His personal study of Aboriginal art, culture and history was formalised through a Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Studies. He holds a Master of Education, Graduate Diploma in Adult Education and a Bachelor of Science.

Avril Quail

Avril Quail is both an Indigenous artist and curator. She holds a bachelor of Visual Arts degree from Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney. She is a Noonuccal woman with clan associations to the Goenpul and Nuigi people of Moreton Bay (Quandamooka) in South East Queensland. A founding member of Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Avril became its chairperson in 1989. From 1995 to 2002 she was Senior Assistant Curator in the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art at the National Gallery Australia. In 2002 Avril was appointed Associate Curator, Indigenous Australian Art with the Queensland Art Gallery this included engagement with the Asia Pacific Triennial, and Story Place: Indigenous Art of Cape York and the

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Rainforest. Since 2004, she has been Principal Project Officer at the Queensland Indigenous Arts Marketing & Export Agency (QIAMEA). In 2008 Avril was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane. She has been a member of the National Cultural Heritage Committee since 2003.

Nicolas Rothwell

Nicolas Rothwell is the author of *The Red Highway* among other books. He is the long-time northern correspondent for *The Australian* newspaper. He lives in Darwin.

Charles Street

Charles Street is the coordinator of the Western Cape Indigenous Arts Hub. The Weipa-based hub supports and empowers Indigenous artists, centres and communities in central and western Cape York to seek out excellence in the arts, and to strengthen and enrich the cultural fabric of the region. The hub facilitates emerging Indigenous artists by providing training, selling opportunities, open studio facilities and project management for community arts projects.

Theo Tremblay

Theo Tremblay holds a Master of Fine Arts from the University of New South Wales, 1994 (Collaborative Publishing with Indigenous Artists) and has printed collaboratively with artists from all over Australia. He has assisted in establishing: the Oxford Print Cooperative, UK 1976–77; Australian Print Workshop, Melbourne 1977–80; Lithography Studios at the Canberra School of Art 1981 and Studio One Inc, 1993, ACT; Northern Editions, NTU, 1989-93; The Australian Art Print Network, Sydney, 1994; Mualgau Minaral Artists Collective Print Studio, Moa Island, TSI; and Djumbunji Press KickArts Fine Art Printmaking, Cairns, 2004-07. He currently operates Editions Tremblay - No Fixed Press, at Canopy Arts in Cairns.

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Judy Watson

Judy Watson was born in Mundubbera, Queensland, in 1959. She has held numerous solo exhibitions and residencies in Australia and internationally. In 1997 she represented Australia at the Venice Biennale. She is the recipient of a number of significant contemporary art awards including the Moët & Chandon Fellowship in 1995, the National Gallery of Victoria's Clemenger Award and the Work on Paper Award at the 23rd National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards in 2006. Two of her works have been permanently installed within the Musée du quai Branly in Paris.