



CAIRNS INDIGENOUS ART FAIR 2010

20-22 August

MEDIA RELEASE

MAY 2010

Cairns Indigenous Art Fair shares the rich arts and cultures of Indigenous Queensland

Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) returns in 2010, after a dazzling debut in 2009 revealed a major new cultural event where the rich practice of contemporary and traditional Queensland Indigenous arts was brought to life in vibrant colour.

CIAF (20-22 August) is unique among international art fairs, bringing galleries together with Indigenous art centres at a major marketplace in the relaxed rainforest setting of Tanks Arts Centre. The Art Fair is then transformed into a celebration of culture with the dance, music and theatre programs exploring the traditional connection between the visual and performing arts.

Art work from more than 200 established and emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists born or based in Queensland will be on sale at Tanks, and complemented by a selling exhibition curated by Artistic Director Michael Snelling at Cairns Regional Gallery. Artists featuring in the Art Fair and Exhibition include **Vernon Ah Kee, Richard Bell, Judy Watson, Samantha Hobson, Rosella Namok, Tony Albert, Roy McIvor, Ian Waldron** and **Joanne Nalingul Currie**.

Rigour is brought to the conversation with the CIAF Symposium, Saturday 21 August, this year featuring keynote speakers **Dr Brenda L Croft** and leading Torres Strait Islander printmaker **Alick Tipoti** and focusing on the topic Indigenous arts: identity, place and cultural ownership. The program also features artists' talks and panels, a schools program, Message Sticks Indigenous Film Festival and free art activities for children and families.

We are also pleased to announce that **Dan Sultan** is the headline act for the Art Fair's Friday night, 20 August, concert in 2010 – also the opening event of Cairns Festival. Sultan's career has exploded with his second album *Get Out While You Can* a triple j album of the week and rave reviews for his performances in the recent Kev Carmody and Paul Kelly tributes. Sultan, star of *Bran Nu Dae*, will be supported by some of the most exciting Indigenous performers from Far North Queensland, including dancers from the Torres Strait, Cape York, Gulf of Carpentaria and Cairns and surrounds.

The CIAF Opening Party, Thursday 19 August, boasts an impressive line-up of talent this year with internationally renowned didgeridoo player **William Barton** joining violinist **Kirtley Leigh Paine** to perform a specially commissioned composition. The Opening Party also features fine food and wine and performances from **Will Kepa** and dancers from the Cape and Torres Strait.

Mr Snelling is looking forward to taking visitors on a journey of cultural discovery.

"CIAF provides an enriching, spiritual experience that promotes better community understanding of the arts practiced by Australia's first cultures," he said.

"It is also an exciting opportunity for people to directly and ethically access authentic Indigenous art at art fair prices and for dealers to find new artists and audiences.

"More than 10,000 visitors generated art sales in excess of \$500,000 at last year's event.

"The debut of Girringun Aboriginal Art Centre's Bagu with Jiman (Firesticks), the Mossman Storycloth textiles from Kuku Yalanji Dreamtime Art Gallery, and the Lardil artists of Mornington Island Arts at CIAF resulted in a flood of offers for exhibitions nationwide.

"We look forward to their return to CIAF in August, and also to uncovering innovative new art works and artists."

CIAF takes place Friday 20 and Saturday 21 August, 10am - 6pm and Sunday 22 August, 10am - 3pm at Tanks Arts Centre and Cairns Regional Gallery.

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The Art Fair features a mix of FREE and TICKETED events, as follows:

FREE

Art Fair
Exhibition
Children and family art activities
Artists' talks and panels
Dance and music performances
Message Sticks Indigenous Film Festival

TICKETED

CIAF Opening Party, 19 August, \$50/ early bird offer available until 31 July of two tickets for \$80.
Bipperera-Kymel 2010, 20 August, \$35/\$30
CIAF Symposium, 21 August, \$50/\$25
*Tickets are on sale from 24 May via Ticketlink at www.ticketlink.com.au or 1300 855 835.

Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) is committed to providing an ethical marketplace for the sale and purchase of Queensland Indigenous art and supporting the career development of Queensland Indigenous artists.

For more information about the 2010 Cairns Indigenous Art Fair please visit www.ciaf.com.au.

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ART FAIR

Leading commercial galleries from across Australia including Alcaston Gallery, The Australian Art Network, and Fireworks Gallery will be at CIAF representing some of the nation's most sought-after Indigenous artists, while Indigenous art centres will reveal the next wave of talented painters, sculptors, weavers, printmakers and textile artists.

EXHIBITION

A selling exhibition at the beautiful Cairns Regional Gallery will feature new art work from emerging to well-known artists, some with international profiles. Judy Watson, Vernon Ah Kee, Richard Bell, Tony Albert, Gordon Hookey, Arone Meeks, Ian Waldron, Roy McIvor and Billy Missi all feature in the galleries' stands and the CIAF Exhibition.

SYMPOSIUM

Influential members from the arts community will focus attention on the issues challenging and invigorating the Indigenous arts industry at the second Cairns Indigenous Art Fair Symposium, inspired by the theme *Indigenous arts: identity, place and cultural ownership*.

Debate will be informed and led by keynote speakers Dr Brenda Croft, curator of the first *Culture Warriors* exhibition presented by the National Gallery of Australia, and renowned Torres Strait Islander printmaker Alick Tipoti.

DANCE AND MUSIC

CIAF will present a comprehensive dance program, featuring traditional and contemporary dancers and performers from Cape York, the Gulf of Carpentaria, Torres Strait and Cairns.

Indigenous performance and the incredible diversity of tropical north Queensland's music scene will be celebrated at a special CIAF concert on 20 August, also the opening event of Cairns Festival 2010. *Bipperra-Kymel – Sounds of FNQ and the Torres Strait* will feature acclaimed musician Dan Sultan, whose career has exploded with his new album *Get Out While You Can* named a triple j album of the week, and rave reviews for his performances in the Kev Carmody and Paul Kelly tributes. He is one of the stars of hit movie *Bran Nue Dae* and is part of the acclaimed Black Arm Band.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Fun, creativity and learning come together at the CIAF family art activities presented by FNQ REACH and the State Library of Queensland. Artists will help parents, carers and children get hands-on with drawing, mural painting and printmaking. The State Library of Queensland is also presenting an exhibition of Indigenous children's art and an interactive studio for drawing landscapes and portrait painting with leading children's education expert Dr Barbara Piscitelli.

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