



IACA

INDIGENOUS ART CENTRE ALLIANCE

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NEWS

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Cover image:

Orange Sky laundry vehicle with
artworks by Lockhart River artist.
Image Orange Sky Australia.

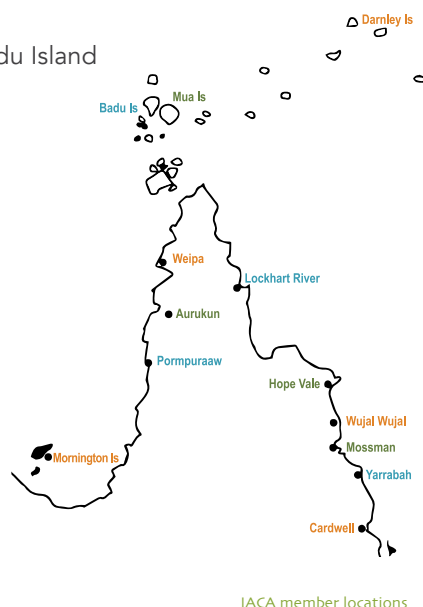
About IACA

IACA, the Indigenous Art Centre Alliance, is the peak body that supports and advocates for the community-based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and cultural centres of Far North Queensland.

IACA works under the guidance and direction of a majority Indigenous Management Committee and is a not-for-profit organisation. There are currently 13 member art centres spread across the islands of the Torres Strait, the Gulf of Carpentaria, Cape York and the tropical rainforest and coastal regions of Far North Queensland.

Indigenous Art Centre Alliance members:

Badu Art Centre / Badhulgaw Kuthinaw Mudh - Badu Island
Bana Yirriji Art and Cultural Centre - Wujal Wujal
Erub Arts - Darnley Island
Girringun Aboriginal Art Centre - Cardwell
Gab Titui Cultural Centre
HopeVale Arts and Culture Centre
Lockhart River Art Centre
Mornington Island Art
Moa Arts / Ngalmun Lagau Minaral - Mua Island
Pormpuraaw Art and Culture Centre
Wei'num Arts - Western Cape York
Wik and Kugu Art Centre - Aurukun
Yalanji Arts - Mossman Gorge
Yarrabah Arts and Cultural Precinct



2017-18 IACA Management Committee:

Phil Rist (President), EO Girringun Aboriginal Corporation
Vikki Burrows (Treasurer), Manager Bana Yirriji Art and Cultural Centre
Solomon Booth, Board Chair Ngalmun Lagau Minaral Art Centre – Moa Arts
Diann Lui, Manager Erub Arts
Abe Muriata, Artist Girringun Aboriginal Art Centre
Margaret Mara, Manager Wei'num Arts, Western Cape York
Darrell Harris, Manager Yarrabah Arts and Cultural Precinct



IACA programs and events receive financial assistance from the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland's Backing Indigenous Arts initiative and from the Federal Government's Ministry for the Arts through the Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support program.

Word from the President



Phil Rist. Photo by: Michael Marzik

Over the past six months, IACA has undergone a governance appraisal. The aim of the appraisal was to examine the governance processes and strategic orientation of IACA, and to provide a set of observations and recommendations to assist the IACA Management Committee to continue to deliver high-quality, highly valued art services.

I am pleased and proud to say we have received a very positive report. The final report highlighted that the IACA Management Committee, has provided leadership and guidance for the organisation, and provides vital industry representation for the membership. It continued to note that, the Management Committee members were very positive about their involvement and noted they were well supported by the Executive Officer.

The report also stated that, the organisation's documents demonstrate active, high quality governance with clear and transparent processes and documentations, and that, a comprehensive and well-presented annual report is also produced, and a board of responsible persons have been appointed to oversee the Public Fund.

This report was delivered to the Management Committee and members at the IACA conference in May.

Phil Rist

President,
IACA Management Committee

Phil Rist is the executive officer of the Girringun Aboriginal Corporation and Deputy Chair of the North Queensland Land Council. Phil is a widely respected Nywaigi Indigenous leader whose skill and determination has played a key role in establishing the Girringun Aboriginal Corporation as one of the most successful Indigenous community-based organisations in Australia.

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Erub merges art with history



Erub Artists with Cairns Performing Arts Commission. Image: Lynnette Griffiths & Erub Arts

The first quarter of this year has seen Erub Arts involved in two prominent commissions, both of which highlight not only the talent of Erub artists, but also the exciting history this centre enjoys.

A work titled Sea Journeys began in 2013 when Erub Arts sought to reconnect with New Caledonia. The project spans time, families and religious connections through an event titled 'The Coming of the Light'. The Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art in partnership with the Tjibaou Cultural Centre, have invited Erub to continue their Sea Journeys work. The commission will bring to life an important part of Queensland's history in a major charcoal work that will go on exhibition as part of the Asia Pacific Triennial this November at QAGOMA.

The Cairns Performing Art Centre and the Cairns Council have commissioned Erub Arts to create a major Ghost Net work Gazir Lagoon. This panel, measuring 4.5m x 3.8m, will hang in the entry foyer of the new Cairns Performing Art Centre, throwing its shadow against the wall. The panel is comprised of small elements and depicts the life of a lagoon that is central to family life on the fringing reef that surrounds Erub.



Making Cairns Performing Art Commission. Image: Lynnette Griffiths & Erub Arts



Lorna Lui in New Caladonia. Image Lynnette Griffiths & Erub Arts

MIArts welcomes new manager



Agnes Kohler working in the studio. Image: MIArt

In January, John Armstrong commenced the role of Art Centre Manager at Mirndiyan Gununa – MI Arts on Mornington Island. John has enjoyed a long career working in the arts in both Australia and overseas. He has a wealth of experience working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in arts and cultural maintenance, as well as enterprise and economic development. John believes that the strong and vibrant heritage of Mirndiyan Arts is set for a new phase of exciting and rewarding activities locally, nationally and internationally. The beautiful, rich and culturally significant art that comes from the artists of Mirndiyan Gununa can be attributed to its strong culture. Their reputation for exceptional quality will continue to be built upon with both established artists and the new generations of emerging artists. MI Arts extend a very warm welcome to John and are thrilled to have him on board.



Ethel Thomas working in her studio. Image: MIArt

In Profile: Emily Murray



For Emily Murray, art and life are indistinguishable. She is a woman of great exuberance, taking her life and her art in big strides, enveloping it all in the warmest hugs you can imagine!

Emily lives in Murray Upper and the majority of her artwork is made at Girringun Aboriginal Art Centre near Cardwell. Emily has been making artwork since the Girringun Aboriginal Art Centre began in 2008, and likes to create baskets and bagu, as well as paintings.

Emily says, "I like to do things my way. I do what comes into my head. Everything happens here and I keep it in my head until I can use it – not following someone else's plan. I like to keep making things for as long as I can and then leave it to the next generation to take on. They can pick up the pieces.

"Our art centre is important as it gives me somewhere to work – a bit like going back to school again. But Girringun sells and promotes our artwork. It helps keep us occupied with our own culture. The younger ones see what we are doing then. I like to say - just keep on keeping on – like the paint," says Emily.

Emily Murray with her work Maabgi Rainbow, 2015. Image: Girringun Arts

In Profile: Elizabeth "Queenie" Giblet

Elizabeth "Queenie" Giblet was born in 1939 and lives in Lockhart River. Queenie says the most rewarding part of being an artist is the ability to share her stories through her paintings.

"My paintings are about body paintings before dance time. I paint about house decoration. I paint about waterlily and wild flowers too. When I was small girl at old mission, we go down to the beach and draw on the sand. I use my fingers to draw on the sand and sometimes I use sticks that wash up on the sand," she says.

The Lockhart River Art Centre is an important place for Queenie to continue her art and share in the community, especially with the children of Lockhart River State Primary School.

"It's a proper, nice place for everyone to come paint. I have my own space to paint. Sometimes we do headbands, armbands for dancing too. I been painting for long while now, since 2005, with them other old gals too. We come to art centre to yarn, laugh and do our paintings. That's how everyone know me as Queenie," she says.

"Queenie and them other old gals go to the school and tell stories to them children every Friday. Many of the children are grandchildren of ours," she says.

While Queenie is limited in her ability to tour to exhibitions at the moment, she says she is "happy when art centre take my work out... every time".



Elizabeth Queenie Giblet - Lockhart River. Image: Lockhart River Art Centre



Elizabeth Queenie Giblet - Lockhart River. Image: Lockhart River Art Centre

Hopevale textiles feature in Commonwealth Games Festival



Hopevale and QUT fashion design collaboration. Image: Deelan Do and QUT

Designs inspired by cultural stories told by the artists from Hopevale Arts and Cultural centre featured in the Commonwealth Games fashion performance in February this year. Intertwined was commissioned as part of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games Festival 2018, and showcased Aboriginal and Torres Strait art through fashion. Four women artists from Hopevale, had their artworks and designs transformed into fabric featured in the exhibition curated and directed by Grace Lillian Lee and creative collaborator and choreographer Fiona Wirrer George.

The new Hopevale designs were the result of a recent collaboration with a team of Creative Industries students from Queensland University of Technology (QUT). The project involved QUT's Fashion and Design students working alongside the Hopevale Arts and Cultural centre artists to produce a capsule collection embracing and celebrating the Guugu Yimithirr tradition alongside contemporary design.



Intertwined fashion performance. Image: Deelan Do and QUT



Hopevale and QUT fashion design collaboration. Image: Deelan Do and QUT

Lockhart River art traverses the globe

Artists from Lockhart River Art Centre have enjoyed a busy first half of the year, with their works traversing the globe - from Hobart, Cairns and Sydney all the way to Paris and Switzerland. Here are the highlights:

- In January, the women artists at Lockhart River held a successful exhibition at Art Mob Aboriginal Fine Art Gallery in Hobart. Margery Accoom, Irene Namook and Manager Enoch Perazim all visited Hobart to attend the launch.
- In February, Rosella Namok, Fiona Omeenyo, Irene Namok, Silas Hobson and Patrick Butcher Jnr attended a print workshop organised by KickArts Contemporary at TAFE Cairns.
- In March, work by Silas Hobson was featured on the IACA wall at KickArts, and his painting featured on the front covers of both the March and June editions of Skytrans Inflight Magazine.
- In April, Irene Namok's paintings were exhibited in both the Suzanne O'Connell Gallery and the Art d Australia Gallery in Paris, as part of the Art Paris Art Fair. The Arts Paris Art Fair featured 142 galleries from 23 different countries.
- In an exhibition from May to June, Silas Hobson and Irene Namok launched an exhibition of works from Lockhart River at Art Atrium in Sydney.
- Also in June, Lockhart works were featured in an exhibition at the Foundation Burkhardt-Felder Arts et Culture Museum in Switzerland. The exhibition features a permanent collection of works from Lockhart River, Tiwi Islands, Elcho Island and Mornington Island.

To top off this extraordinary schedule, reproduced artworks by Silas Hobson, Fiona Omeenyo and Rosella Namok, under a copyright licensing agreement, are currently featured on the Orange Sky Laundry Services truck - the first mobile laundry vehicle unit to be stationed full time in Lockhart River. The vehicle is equipped with washing machines, dryers and a water reticulation unit. The vehicle services the Lockhart River community from Monday to Friday moving to different locations daily.



Orange Sky laundry vehicle with artworks by Fiona Omeenyo. Image: Orange Sky Australia

Moa Arts welcomes new manager



Lisa Clarke. Image: Lisa Clarke

Moa Art Centre is pleased to welcome new manager, Lisa Clarke. Lisa brings with her extensive experience from previous roles at the Papaunya Tjupi Arts Centre, Tjuwanpa Art Centre and Warlukurlangu Art Centre in Yuendumu. Lisa has a strong vision to elevate the function and finance of Moa Art Centre, and is committed to engaging artists within the community. Congratulations are extended to Solomon Booth and David Bosun, who both have works that have been accepted as finalists in the 2018 National Works on Paper exhibition at Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery. Solomon Booth's work Dhangal Urgnu Tadiak and David Bosun's work Kubilaw Ulakal, are both large format prints, selected from over 1000 applicants, and are amongst the 64 chosen finalists.

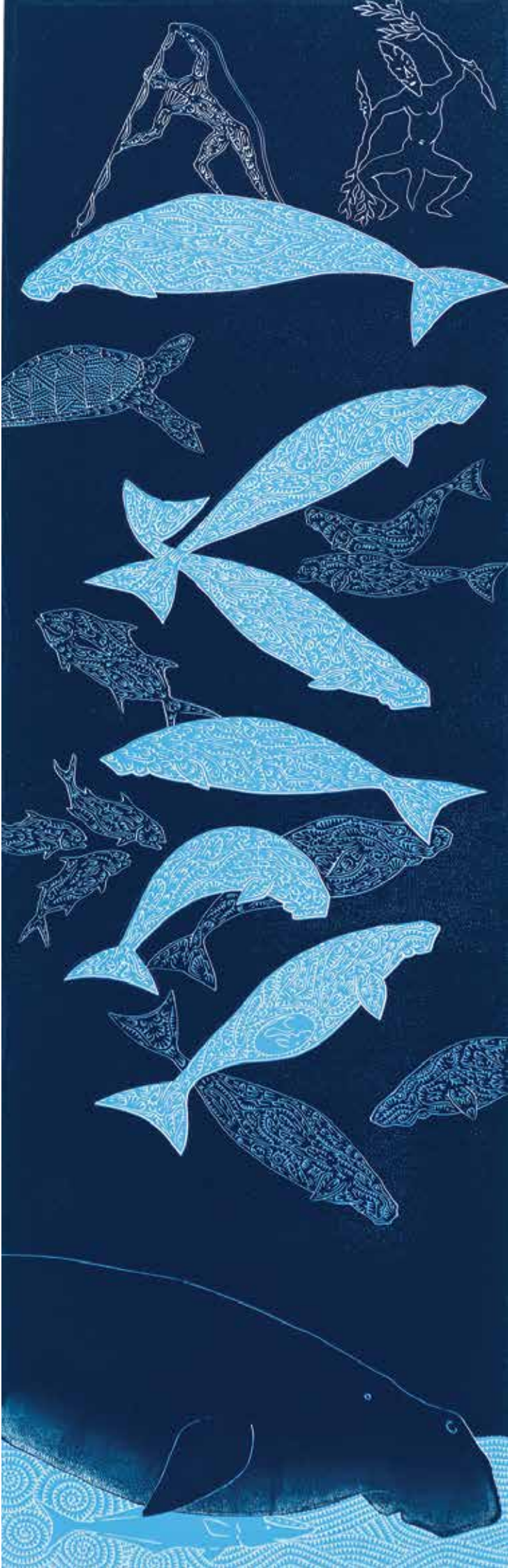
In other news, Moa Arts will be launching a touring exhibition, Malu Mabaigal – Seafaring People, initially curated by KickArts, showcasing a suite of colour-reduction lino prints that were developed at the KickArts Indigenous Residential

Printmaking Program in Cairns earlier this year. The exhibition, which begins in June, will run through CIAF, and is set to travel south to Woolloongabba Art Gallery later in the year where it will gather new additions and expand to include works by Moa weavers.

Alongside the Woolloongabba exhibition will play a short film developed by Jan Cattoni, as well as a catalogue that will record Mualgal culture depicted through art. The catalogue will include contributions from experts on cultural astronomy in the Torres Strait and the archaeological history of Mua Island. Together, with the stories interwoven and depicted in the artwork, these displays will support the preservation of the unique culture and way of life of the Mualgal people.

David Bosun
Kubilaw Ulakal
Lino Cut Print
Image: Moa Arts

Fiona Elisala at work. Image: Jan Cattoni.



Open roads to Bana Yirriji Art

Artists from Bana Yirriji Art Centre have used the recent wet season to create new works and collect materials, ready to receive hundreds of visitors once the roads re-open during the dry season. Based in Wujal Wujal, the art centre is housed in an eco designed building, boasting its own gallery and retail area.

In May, Bana Yirriji Art launched an exhibition of works at Natures Power House, located in the beautiful botanic gardens in Cooktown. The Wujal Wujal artists have also been busy producing new textile and jewellery designs for the upcoming art fair season. The artists worked with Hannah Parker to design 2m fabric lengths, and Bev Dunkley to create seed based jewellery pieces. Shannon Brett and Lynelle Flinder have also worked with the artist to create a new silk fabric collection.



Artists Betty Sykes and daughter Dolly Sykes.
Image: Bana Yirriji Art



Bana Yirriji Artists model their jewellery collection. Image: Bana Yirriji Art

Pormpuraaw's unique culture captured in new book and film

Syd Bruce making his work.
Image: Pormpuraaw Arts



Pormpuraaw Arts is pleased to announce that a new book and film, which capture its unique culture and history, will launch at the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair in August 2018.

The book, Pormpuraaw: Stories, Language, Art, is the result of what has been several years of research and collating stories from the local community. The book provides a unique insight into Pormpuraaw culture and history with many locals contributing oral history, language translations and artwork. The book contains 117 stories from ancient times, and explains Pormpuraaw totems translated into the Thaayorre, Kugu and Wik languages.

Pormpuraaw Arts have also worked with filmmaker Jan Cattoni and ICTV to produce a new short film titled, White Ibis Sorcery. Offering insight into Pormpuraaw culture, the film is a story of sorcery, murder, lost spirits and establishing ownership of country. Syd Bruce Shortjoe directed the film with the help of Pormpuraaw Artists. Before European contact, certain knowledge could only be shared with initiated people. As Director, Syd Bruce Shortjoe has made the conscious decision to share some of this knowledge, through storytelling, with the outside world.

In other news, The Boomerang Effect: The Aboriginal Arts of Australia, is the latest exhibition from Pormpuraaw Arts at the Museum Ethnographique de Genev (Geneva). The exhibition presents 28 new ghost net works, with Pormpuraaw artists creating marine animals from the large fishing nets found at sea. The exhibition has been curated by Stephen Jacob and Suzanne O'Connell, who also coordinated and supported Pormpuraaw's art at the UN building in Geneva and the Paris Aquarium last year.



Filming White Ibis Sorcery. Image: Jan Cattoni and Pormpuraaw Arts

The Boomerage Effect
exhibition opening, Geneva.
Image: Stephen Jacob



IACA conference wrap-up

The first biannual IACA conference for 2018 was held in Cairns in early May. The conference agenda was filled with a number of highly relevant industry topics, delivered by expert speakers. It included a concept development session for the Belonging (working title) Exhibition Project by curator Glenn Iseger-Pilkington and Arts Development Facilitator Edwina Circuit; updates from Arts QLD and IVAIS funding bodies; and a panel presentation by Edwina Circuit, Tim Acker and Arlette Martin Copyright Agency on exploring The Fashion Phenomenon in art centres.

A new addition to the conference was sessions for participants to schedule one-on-one appointments with presenters for advice particular to their art centre. These sessions proved to be very popular and successful. Members booked into sessions to ask specific questions about topics such as the SAM database, social media and marketing, website improvements and fashion licensing.

The IACA Members Dinner was a highlight of the conference. It was held at Aqualuna - the Cairns Aquarium restaurant - and included a tour of the aquarium as well as a presentation from key note speaker and acclaimed Indigenous artist Danie Mellor 'Telling the Land Story: culture and history in contemporary art'.



IACA members develop exhibition concepts with Glen Iseger-Pilkington. Image IACA



Belonging Exhibition concept development Glen Iseger-Pilkington and Edwina Circuit. Image: IACA



Laurie Nona Presenting Exhibition Concept Ideas. Image: IACA



Danie Mellor 'Telling the Land Story: culture and history in contemporary art'. Image: IACA

Welcome Emma Loban new IACA project coordinator



Emma Loban. Image: Emma Loban

IACA is thrilled to welcome Emma Loban to the team as project coordinator. Emma has taken over from Sam Cook who resigned late last year to work overseas. Emma is a Kulkalgal, Meriam & Wuthathi woman whose family and cultural ties extend from Eastern Cape York to the Torres Strait Islands. Emma has worked within the Indigenous culture, arts and heritage sector for the past decade, and in 2012 was awarded Torres Shire Young Citizen of the Year for her domestic and international advocacy, diplomacy and contribution to the field.

Until recently, Emma held the position of Operations and Exhibitions Manager at the Gab Titui Torres Strait Cultural Centre. She has an impressive background that spans strategic and operational planning, research, communications and marketing, and developing and implementing public programs. From 2011-12, Emma undertook a Fellowship in London with the Natural History Museum, providing advice and assistance in the repatriation of nineteen Torres Strait ancestral remains back to Australia. Emma has been invited to present on themes and issues of importance to the Torres Strait and it's Peoples across Australia and the UK. Including; Cambridge University, Oxford University, the British Museum, National Museum of Scotland and the David Attenborough Studio. Emma is an alumna of the British Council Accelerate Programme (2015) and the National Gallery of Australia's Wesfarmers Indigenous Arts Leadership Program (2010). We look forward to working with Emma and what we know will be her outstanding contribution to the IACA team.



Solomon Booth Dhangal Urgnu Tadiak Lino Cut Print. Image: Moa Ats

Manggan – gather, gathers, gathering at Cairns Art Gallery



Manggan gather gathers gathering exhibition installation, Cairns Art Gallery 2018. Image: Cairns Art Gallery 2018

Manggan – gather, gathers, gathering, was the first national touring exhibition of contemporary works by award-winning artists from the Girringun Aboriginal Arts Centre. It was held at the Cairns Art Gallery during March and April this year.

The exhibition showcased the superbly handcrafted works by Girringun artists, displayed alongside collection objects and historic photographs from the South Australian Museum. It provided a unique opportunity to view and engage with the distinctive Aboriginal rainforest art traditions and culture from the Girringun region.

As part of the exhibition, the artists’ ancestral tools traditionally used to make fire - Bagu (body) with Jiman (sticks) – were transformed into an iconic art form by the Girringun artists. Made from clay, timber, string and painted with ochre, these artworks evoked the spirit of the old people.

To complement the exhibition and as part of a public education program, Girringun artists Deborah Murray and Ninney Murray also ran a popular Mindi weaving workshop.

Evolution: Torres Strait Masks to tour Australia



Eddie Nona, Sesere (2015). Image: Photo: SBCreative Co.

A collection of ceremonial Torres Strait Islander masks is set to tour Australia and the world, in the Gab Titui Cultural Centre’s cultural maintenance exhibition titled Evolution: Torres Strait Masks.

Evolution: Torres Strait Masks was developed by the Gab Titui Cultural Centre, in partnership with the National Museum of Australia (NMA) in 2015. It explores the importance of ceremonial masks in Torres Strait Islander culture and their influence on contemporary art forms. Evolution has since been exhibited at the National Museum of Australia and is currently on display at the Museum of Tropical Queensland until 2 September 2018. In partnership with the NMA and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the exhibition will also open internationally as a graphic panel display at Vietnam’s Museum of

Ethnology in May 2018, and is set to continue its tour to over of 30 countries worldwide.

Torres Strait Regional Authority Chairperson, Mr Napau Pedro Stephen AM, said the cultural centre has been honoured by the reception the exhibition has received. “The Gab Titui curatorial team worked closely with the National Museum of Australia, British Museum, Queensland Museum and well-known Torres Strait Islander artist, Alick Tipoti, to develop Evolution: Torres Strait Masks”, Mr Stephen said.

“We look forward to audiences both here in Australia and overseas being able to share in the extraordinary craftsmanship of the artists involved”.



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IACA is a small organisation that punches above its weight to support culturally strong best practice Indigenous art enterprises.

To make a big difference to Australia's most remote Indigenous artists, you can easily donate via our DONATE NOW button on the IACA website www.iaca.com.au or manager@iaca.com.au

Donations are tax deductible

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