

New Exhibition Space at UMI Arts

JOEY LAIFOO EXHIBITION

On 10th September invited guests joined Cairns-based artist Joey Laifoo at the official launch of UMI Arts new office/gallery space in Martyn Street, Parramatta. The office space now incorporates a white-walled gallery space that will showcase an annual program of changing exhibitions by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island artists and art communities.

The first exhibition in the 2008-2009 UMI Arts exhibition program is recent linocuts and paintings by Torres Strait Island artist and UMI Arts member, Joey Laifoo.

Joey Laifoo recently returned from the 2008 Festival of Pacific Arts in American Samoa. Joey was among 42 artists in the Australian delegation, chosen from more than 300 to share Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and culture with other Pacific nations. The Chair of UMI Arts, Lisa Michl was also invited to represent Australia at the Festival.

Joey Laifoo was born and raised in the Torres Strait Islands and is originally from Badu Island, Saibai Island and Thursday Island.

Through his intricate linocuts and paintings, Joey expresses his feelings for the Torres Strait marine life.

"The artworks of marine life are a part of Torres Strait Islander's respect for the sea, which is our lifeblood. I like to acknowledge the past and present culture through my artwork and share it with the young and old from all cultures.

Most of my artworks are based on people growing up on the islands, hunting and playing... I like to tell these stories through my artwork so people can understand and relate to the Islander way of life", says Joey.

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RADIO

Tune-in to:

UMI ARTS HOUR - Fridays 12 - 1pm
Bumma Bippera, 98.7FM Cairns



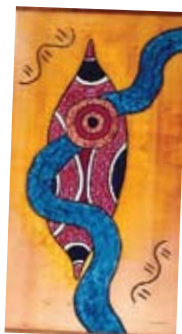
Joey with the Pearling Lifestyle linocut

EVA WANGANEEN EXHIBITION AT UMI ARTS

On Friday, 10th October, UMI member artist Eva Wanganeen will exhibit her works at the UMI gallery space. Eva is originally

from Wallaroo, S.A. and her country is Kokatha, Wirringu & Arrente. She now resides and works at Cow Bay and this exhibition will showcase silk paintings created by Eva.

Eva Wanganeen's exhibition will run until 7th November, 2008 and works are for sale.



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A Word from the UMI Arts Chairperson



Lisa Michl

UMI Arts has achieved a number of very significant milestones in the past three months. As Chair, I am delighted to welcome Henrietta Fourmile-Marrie who became a Director of the UMI Board and to congratulate Alberta Hornsby on her appointment as UMI Arts Deputy Chair. UMI Arts is a not-for-profit company and is managed by an all Indigenous Board of Directors.

In July the UMI Arts Board appointed our first full time Executive Officer, Janet Parfenovics. Janet has worked in the visual arts in Australia and overseas for almost 30 years and was the inaugural General Manager of the Museum of Contemporary Arts in Sydney and the CEO of the Centre of Contemporary Arts in Cairns.

UMI also welcomes our first Development Officers – Visual Arts & Craft - Earl Rosas and Troy Dennis. Earl and Troy joined UMI in July and have already started working in communities to develop projects that support UMI's mission to keep our culture strong.

Together with Darryl Harris (Business Manager) and Renee Harris (Administrator) UMI now has a great team on board to deliver an exciting program of events, exhibitions, and activities over the next twelve months.

UMI Arts continues to participate in strategic planning and policy development at both a state and national level.

UMI Arts is actively involved in the Australia Council's current review of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board's key organisations funding program. The findings of the review are to be announced by the end of 2008.

UMI has also had input into the draft Queensland Government's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Policy. This will be the first Indigenous arts policy published in Queensland. The purpose of the policy is to support Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders to preserve, strengthen and build awareness and appreciation of their unique cultures.

These are very exciting times for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island art and culture and UMI looks forward to working with its many partners and supporters to ensure the maintenance, preservation and protection of our cultural identity in Far North Queensland.

Lisa Michl
Chairperson

A Word from the Executive Officer of UMI Arts



Janet Parfenovics

I am delighted to be joining UMI Art at this exciting time of its development. I believe that there are many opportunities that can now strengthen Indigenous and Torres Strait Island cultural practices in Far North Queensland.

UMI is a peak organisation that can and will represent the interests of Indigenous arts and culture at a time when all eyes are increasingly turned towards Far North Queensland.

This year UMI will be presenting a program of exhibitions as part of our "Exhibition Ready" project. These exhibitions are being developed through a process of consultation and field trips by our two Development Officers, Earl Rosas and Troy Dennis.

Over the next three years, UMI will be progressively working with Art Centres in Far North Queensland to develop exhibitions of art and craft that showcase our communities. In the first year, three community arts and craft exhibitions are being developed and these will each be installed for a 4-week period at UMI's small gallery space and at other venues in Cairns.

The UMI exhibition program will also include a number of solo artist exhibitions beginning with Joey Laifoo's linocut exhibition (11 September – 8 October) and followed by an exhibition of recent

works by Eva Wanganeen (10 October – 7 November). If you are interested in participating in UMI's annual program of exhibitions please contact either Earl or Troy for an Exhibition Proposal form.

UMI will also be participating in the 2009 NAIDOC celebrations, the Dreaming Festival, Laura Arts Festival and the Cairns Indigenous Arts Fair and will also be working with a number of local Cairns Indigenous communities and organisations leading up to the annual Big Talk One Fire cultural summit in May next year.

Currently UMI Arts is developing the terms of reference for the proposed new Cairns Indigenous Arts Hub that will showcase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island art and culture in Cairns. This is an initiative of Arts Queensland's Backing Indigenous Arts and an exciting opportunity for UMI and Indigenous artists of Far North Queensland.

Over the coming months I am looking forward to travelling to meet with Art Centre coordinators and artists in our communities. For those with whom I have already met, thank you for your warm welcome and sharing of ideas.

Janet Parfenovics
Executive Officer

CONTACT UMI ARTS

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UMI Arts gratefully acknowledges the support of:



Joey Laifoo – Exhibition at UMI Arts

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The exhibition was officially opened by UMI Arts new Executive Officer, Janet Parfenovics. Speaking at the opening, Ms Parfenovics detailed the program of exhibitions and events that UMI Arts has planned over the coming year. This includes working progressively with Indigenous arts centres in the remote far north communities, including Kowanyama and Hope Vale.

Joey Laifoo's exhibition will run at UMI Arts from 10 September through to 8 October 2008 and all works are for sale.

The UMI offices and gallery are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. For further information please contact UMI Arts on 4041 6152 or admin@umiarts.com.au.



Opening night of Joey Laifoo exhibition

NAIDOC Tanks Market Day, Tanks Art Centre, Cairns

On Saturday 12th July 2008 UMI Arts contributed to the Tanks Art Centre NAIDOC celebration day, with a stall that showcased original artworks, greeting cards, jewellery, CD's and carvings.

The Tanks Market Day coincided with an exhibition of artworks that were also on display in Tank 4. The exhibition included artworks by 21 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island artists.



UMI Arts Stall at the Tanks Arts Centre

Carnival on Collins 2008

On Sunday 7th September the Tanks Arts Centre again organised the annual "Carnival on Collins". This Festival of Cairns calendar event attracts thousands of visitors to Collins Street, The Tanks Arts Centre and Botanical Gardens precinct.

UMI Arts was invited to participate with an information booth attended by UMI's two Development Officers, Troy Dennis and Earl Rosas.



This linocut represents the hardship of baby turtles, while they are still in the egg. The dangers are shown on the back of the baby turtle. The dangers shown in the linocut are goannas, other turtles digging up their nest and humans.

NAIDOC in the Park – Fogarty Park, Cairns Esplanade

UMI Arts has a long standing commitment to supporting the annual NAIDOC celebrations in Cairns.

On 11th July 2008, UMI Arts presence at Fogarty Park included a display of original artworks by Lisa Michl, Lynette Snider, Roy McIvor and Priscilla Major.

Also for sale were a number of CD's by Indigenous artists, jewellery and traditional carvings.

The NAIDOC celebrations in Cairns are an important way of keeping the community informed about UMI activities and projects.



UMI Arts Presence at NAIDOC celebrations

What's New

Go Hunting: the Indigenous Art Centres Operations Resource

"Go Hunting" is now "live", and is an innovative online resource of up to date best practice information for Indigenous art centres who are members of the four leading peak bodies: Desart, ANKAAA, Ananguku Arts & Culture and UMI Arts.

The IACOR project is an invaluable resource tool for all Indigenous Arts Centres, as it offers best-practice information and examples specifically for arts and business.

"Go Hunting's" purpose is to provide Indigenous art centres with a single source of secure, quality, relevant and easily accessible information. Through this resource, it will be possible for art

centres to increase their capacity to operate effective, efficient and successful Indigenous owned art centres, ensuring sustainability, vitality and creativity.

Go Hunting is a project of Matrix On Board, and was officially launched on the 15th of August in Darwin.



Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Policy

A draft Policy document has been prepared by Arts Queensland and UMI Arts has been invited to have an in-put.

This will be the first Indigenous arts policy published in Queensland. Once the policy is finalised, work will begin on an action plan defining how the Queensland Government will address each of the priority areas described in the policy.

The purpose of the policy is to support Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders to preserve, strengthen and build awareness and appreciation of their unique cultures, and to support the development of sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultural activities.

Positive Dreaming, Solid Futures

On 4 September the Hon Rod Welford MP, Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts launched the State Government's new Indigenous employment and training strategy - Positive Dreaming, Solid Futures. The strategy was launched at Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park.

Strengthening of Indigenous Communities is one of the Government's current and most important priorities. It is consistent with the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) recently expressed commitment to close the gap on Indigenous disadvantage in a range of areas.

In employment, COAG has agreed to a new national target of halving the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous employment outcomes within a decade.



Ron Weatherall, Janet Parfenovics & Darryl Harris

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Key Organisations Program Review (Australia Council)

UMI Arts, as the peak Indigenous arts organisation in Far North Queensland is actively involved in the Australia Council's current review of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board's key organisations funding program.

The findings of the review are to be announced by the end of 2008 and will be the result of consultations and representations made with and by UMI and other Indigenous arts organisations during 2008.

On 11th and 12th September UMI Arts was invited to participate in the Cairns session of the Making Solid Ground review. The forum focussed on ways in which the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board may shape future funding strategies and policies for key Indigenous arts organisations around Australia. Currently there are 13 key organisations that receive ATSIAB funding.

Meeting with the Federal Minister for Environment, Heritage and the Arts

On 14th September Jim Turnour MP, Federal Member for Leichhardt and Senator Jan McLucas, Labor Senator for Queensland and Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Aging invited members of the Cairns and region's arts community to meet Peter Garrett MP, Federal Minister for Environment, Heritage and the Arts.

Speaking at the briefing session, the Minister explained the strategic priorities of the Federal Government, particularly in relation to on-going discussions with State Cultural Ministers. Currently, priority areas of the review are the education and arts strategy (artists working in schools and arts as part of a national curriculum) and the Australian film industry.

UMI Arts will continue to engage with and inform the national agenda for strengthening Indigenous arts and culture.

Meet the New UMI Arts Staff

Janet Parfenovics – Executive Officer

Janet was born in Ballarat, Victoria and has a BA (Melb Uni) and MA Prelim (Sydney Uni). Janet has worked in the visual arts for over 30 years: Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Australian Galleries Directors Council, Australia Council Visual Arts & Crafts Board, Museum of Contemporary Arts (MCA), Sydney, Centre of Contemporary Arts (CoCA) and Tanks Arts Centre, Cairns.

Exhibitions that Janet has co-ordinated and managed include D'Un Autre Continent (Museum of Modern Art, Paris), Magiciens de la Terre (Pompidou Centre), Venice Biennale, Indian Triennale, Sao Paulo Bienal, Australian Accent (Guggenheim Museum), Face of Australia (Bicentennial touring exhibition), On the Edge (Japan), Mao Goes Pop (Hong Kong & Sydney), Art Taiwan (Sydney) and the 4-storey high Jeff Koon's Puppy sculpture on the forecourt of the MCA, Sydney.

Janet has lived and worked in Cairns for the last 10 years and took up the position of UMI Executive Officer in July 2008.

Earl Rosas – Development Officer – Visual Arts & Craft



Earl Rosas

Hello everyone!!! My name is Earl Rosas and I am originally from Cairns. My family lives in Mt Garnet and the Atherton Tablelands. I have previously been trained in Dance and Theatre related skills at the Aboriginal Dance Theatre in Redfern, Sydney.

Over the last 12 years I have performed with small touring dance companies and independent choreographers such as Fresh Dancers, Marilyn Miller, Raymond

D. Blanco, Fiona Cameron and Snuff Puppets.

In 1997, I was employed as an Assistant Curator at the Indigenous gallery "Yiribana", Art Gallery of New South Wales. In 2003, I completed a Traineeship in Business Administration, through Cairns Martin College and Apunipima Cape York Health Council, travelling to remote Aboriginal communities throughout the Cape and with Health Promotion.

Troy Dennis – Development Officer – Visual Arts & Craft



Troy Dennis

Hi, my name is Troy, I was born in Sydney in 1967, and I have also lived in Tasmania, Perth, Brisbane, Cairns and Thailand.

My work experience includes the Australian Army; Youth Detention Centres, Brisbane, as a youth worker and arts officer; Youth and Family Support services, Brisbane; Department of Communities Cyclone Larry Disaster Recovery, Babinda; Project Artist, Indigenous Arts Officer and Youth

Arts Development Officer, Tanks Arts Centre, Cairns.

Practice in the arts – sculpture (member of the Cairns Potters Club) and painting. Hobbies include fishing, guitar, fire twirling and lying in my hammock. I am looking forward to working with Far North Queensland communities and the challenges UMI Arts has to offer.

Lisa Michl Showcased Nationally and Internationally

In July this year, Cairns based Indigenous artist, Lisa Michl was invited to represent Australia at the 2008 Festival of Pacific Arts.

Lisa was selected through a highly competitive national process across the performing arts, visual arts and craft, literature and new media.

A spokesperson for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board of the Australia Council said that the selected artists were "well known in their communities and across the world for their ground breaking work. They have toured, exhibited, performed and represented Australia across the globe. All the artists chosen reflect the modernity of Indigenous life in Australia."

Lisa attended the Festival over a 2 week period and a number of the paintings that she produced in American Samoa are subsequently being exhibited at her solo exhibition at the Helen Maxwell Gallery in Canberra.

The exhibition, titled Story Places of Pinnarinch, will run from 19th September to 12th October and explores the special relationship that Lisa, also known as Ko-manggén, has with her land and the way in which this relationship continues to provide artists with identity.

From 22nd October to 16th November 2008, Lisa will stage a second solo exhibition "Pretty Pretty Shell" at [MARS] Melbourne Art Rooms.

"Pretty Pretty Shell" includes new works by Lisa and will be opened by Joy Wandin Murphy, Senior elder of the Wurundjeri people. The exhibition will be officially opened on Saturday 25th October.



Lisa painting at 2008 Festival of Pacific Arts, American Samoa



2008 UMI Staff
Back: Darryl Harris, Janet Parfenovics, Renee Harris
Front: Troy Dennis, Earl Rosas

Kowanyama – Place of Many Waters – Baby Festival

NURTURING AND CELEBRATING OUR FUTURE
27TH AND 28TH OF AUGUST, 2008

Kowanyama, population 1,200, means “Place of Many Waters”, and is home to three tribes; Koko Berra, Kunjen and Yir Yorent.

UMI Arts was proud to be a sponsor of the 2008 Baby Festival. Troy Dennis & Earl Rosas travelled to Kowanyama to be a part of the festivities. In their capacity of UMI Arts Development Officers, Troy and Earl gained considerable insight into the community's wishes to pass on cultural practices to their younger generation, namely weaving, knowledge of language and country, and the importance of identity and self.

Shaun Edwards, Festival Director and Josie Creek from the Kowanyama Mothers' and Babies Centre, with the assistance of Corrine Daniel, Queensland Health, organised this 2-day event.

One of the goals of UMI Arts is to “raise the bar” on cultural practices and artistic influences on Inter-generational learning and education.

The Kowanyama Mothers' and Babies Centre works on the guiding principles of; Strengthening the capacity of women, children, families and communities; Benefits of Traditional healing, Socialisation and cultural practices, Advocating self-determination and finding local solutions to local problems, Identifying healthy and constructive lifestyle choices, Recognising critical principles in children's development and Encouraging partnerships and globalisation of individuals, said Josie Creek, co-organiser of the festival.

The official opening was a Traditional “Baby Story Dreaming Corroborree”, sung by Darryl Gilbert, Koko Berra Elder/Traditional



Owner, and performed by local dancers. Kowanyama Mayor Thomas Hudson also officially welcomed guests to the Baby Festival.

Lunch was provided by the local community - Wallaby, barramundi, damper and sweet potatoes cooked in “Kumbin” (traditional underground oven), which uses the brown ant beds that grow at the base of the trees.

Over two days, Kowanyama women, Mona Mona and Okka Wikka Weavers shared knowledge of cabbage palm craft work, a distinct style of weaving from Koko Berra. Other activities included Belly-dance workshops—Tanya Reading, Kahuna Bodyworks Massage, Lovebub Baby Massage, Circus Arts teacher - Jenny Sader and even a Baby Competition.

It was a fantastic couple of days, with great support from the families and other organisations located in Kowanyama. The closing night concert, at the town recreation hall, featured Jody Cockatoo, Kobya, RuCL and the Global Trinity, then Chaka Demus and Pliers.

Kowanyama Aboriginal Community is located 600kms by road from Cairns and 25 kms from Cape York Peninsula's Gulf of Carpentaria coast and is situated within the Kowanyama DOGIT (Deeds of Grant in Trust) lands.



Kowanyama State School Kids with their Teacher



Dancers



Kowanyama Kids Weaving



Nurse Susan Helmore from Kowanyama Clinic and Auntie Priscilla Major



Baby Competition

The Dreaming Festival 2008

A DIARY EXTRACT FROM TROY DENNIS (NOW DEVELOPMENT OFFICER WITH UMI ARTS)

What a week, with bags packed full, boxes, paintings and as much as we could carry, the airline finally agreed to let us aboard onward bound for Brisbane, with more supplies to be collected at TNT we were off fully loaded in our Tarago vans and off to the festival with Thelma, Roy, Darryl, Pricilla, Lisa and myself.

On arrival we found our display tent and transformed it into an amazing little UMI Arts gallery, display and information/referral stall pictured below. We displayed paintings from various artists from the far North as well as CD's, UMI Arts merchandise as well as the very popular Dilly Bags woven by the very skilled Kowanyama people.

The stall was a great success and had a constant flow of people visiting from Australia and around the world with many questions and genuine interest expressed in indigenous arts and craft.

The Dreaming Festival at Woodford presented massive diversity of indigenous cultures and was a great opportunity for UMI Arts to make their presence known and discuss the challenges that face our many artists.

The Dreaming had something for everyone to embrace, the performing arts were around the clock at numerous venues within the grounds, workshops for dance, weaving, juggling and much more, the wood fires burning combined with smells of food set a great atmosphere, the exhibitions and stalls presented visual eye candy in every direction. If all

that wasn't enough you could always go for a massage or sit and relax at a show or the movies.

Solo exhibition

Lisa Michl Ko-mangén, UMI Arts Chair also held a solo exhibition of her artworks as part of the Dreaming Festival. Lisa's paintings express elements of creation stories, traditional practices and our everyday lifestyle.

The exhibition venue also provided Lisa with the opportunity to share stories, and meet with a diverse range of Indigenous people as well as promote the arts and arts workers in FNQ.



Members News

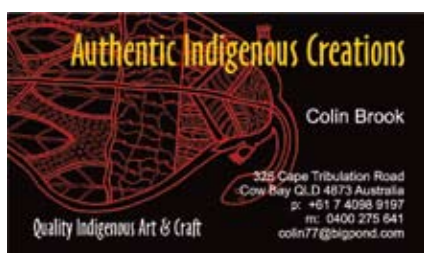
Authentic Indigenous Creations, Cow Bay

Authentic Indigenous Creations is a majority Indigenous owned business offering the following services:

- ▶ marketing & distribution of quality indigenous art and craft
- ▶ Indigenous art and craft consultants
- ▶ Indigenous product development

Eva Wanganeen Brook, a UMI Member, together with husband Colin Brook and daughter Kiah Wanganeen Brook manage the business. They have many years experience in the business sector, including customer service, retail and gallery management, wholesale and manufacturing expertise, product development and marketing. Eva has been a professional artist for over 10 years.

Contact Authentic Indigenous Creations on (07) 4098 9197 or colin77@bigpond.com



Kuku Yalanji Dreamtime Earns ECO Label

Kuku Yalanji Dreamtime, Mossman Gorge, has achieved ECO-certification through the nationally recognised organisation, ECO-Tourism Australia.

Announced on 10th June 2008, this ECO-Certification confirms Kuku Yalanji Dreamtime's commitment to conducting tourism activities in a natural area that leaves minimal impact on the environment and offers interesting ways to learn about the environment that uses resources wisely and contributes to the conservation of the environment and helps local communities.

Roy Gibson, Chairman of Bamanga Buby Ngadimunku Inc and Senior Tour Guide, said that the ECO-Certification was another great milestone achievement for the tourism experience that they provide through tours in the rainforest adjacent to Mossman Gorge in Far North Queensland.





Nanna Rosemary Luke (Koko Berrin) and Shaun Edwards (Koko Berrin) - on our trip out to "country"



Helene George of Creative Economy and Alberta Hornsby at UMI Arts Office



Board meeting discussions



Troy learning Cabbage Palm Craft Work Technique



Left to Right: Kowanyama Mayor; Thomas Hudson, Josie Creek, Ross Gregory, Carolyn Hartness, Nanna Jane Pindy, Corrine Daniel, Tara Hunt.
Front: Koko Berra Elder; Darryl Gibson.



Auntie Priscilla Major with Performer at The Dreaming Festival

Calendar of Events

- Joey Laifoo exhibition at UMI Arts gallery space: Closes 8 October
- Eva Wanganeen exhibition at UMI Arts gallery space: 10 October - 7 November
- UMI Arts Annual General Meeting of Members at UMI Arts: 9am Friday 17 October 2008
- UMI Arts Hour: 12 - 1pm every Friday on Bumma Bippera Radio, 98.7FM Cairns

UMI Arts Membership Application form

UMI Arts is an Indigenous not for profit public company. Memberships are welcomed from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations who have a connection to Far North Queensland.

MEMBERSHIP IS FREE

Artist's Name:

Clan/Language Group/Country:

Organisations Name:

Postal Address:

Residential Address:

Home Phone: Work Phone:

Mobile Phone: Email:

Artform / Occupation (PLEASE TICK ✓)

- ☐ Arts and Crafts ☐ Musician ☐ Performer ☐ Writer ☐ Photographer ☐ Choreographer ☐ Graphic designer
☐ Web designer ☐ Stage manager ☐ Sound Tech ☐ MC ☐ Artistic Director ☐ Arts worker ☐ Arts consultant
☐ Art Centre co-ordinator

Membership category (PLEASE TICK ONE ✓)

- ☐ A. Indigenous Artist ☐ B. Indigenous Arts Centres and Organisations

Please complete and return memberships applications to:

UMI Arts, PO Box 1100, North Cairns Qld 4870 : Fax: (07) 4041 6542 : Email: admin@umiarts.com.au
 Or you can visit the UMI Arts office: 2/151 Martyn Street, Parramatta Park, Cairns Qld 4870.