

# Annual Report

2020-21



YOU AND ME  
STRENGTHENING OUR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CULTURAL PRACTICES





BOIGU SAIBAI

ERUB (DARNLEY ISLAND)  
ERUB ERWER META, DARNLEY ISLAND ART CENTRE

MER (MURRAY ISLAND)

BADU  
BADU ART CENTRE  
BADHULGAL KUTHINAW MUDH

MOA  
NGALMUN LAGAU MINARAL ART CENTRE

WAIBEN (THURSDAY ISLAND)  
GABTITUI CULTURAL CENTRE

NEW MAPOON  
NORTHERN PENINSULA AREA ART CENTRE

SEISIA  
BAMAGA  
UMAGICO  
INJINOO



INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES,  
ART CENTRES AND TOWNSHIPS  
OF FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND  
AND THE TORRES STRAIT

WEIPA  
WE'NUM ABORIGINAL AND TORRES  
STRAIT ISLANDER CORPORATION

LOCKHART RIVER  
LOCKHART RIVER ART CENTRE

AURUKUN  
WIK AND KUGU ART CENTRE

COEN

PORMPURAAW  
PORMPURAAW ART CENTRE

KOWANYAMA

HOPE VALE  
HOPE VALE ART AND CULTURE CENTRE

COOKTOWN

LAURA

WUJAL WUJAL  
WUJAL WUJAL ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE

MORNINGTON ISLAND  
MORNINGTON ISLAND ARTS

MOSSMAN GORGE  
MOSSMAN GORGE ART CENTRE

YARRABAH  
YARRABAH ART  
AND CRAFT CENTRE

KURANDA

MAREEBA

CAIRNS  
\*UMI ARTS

CHILLAGOE

NORMANTON

INNISFAIL

DOOMADGEE

CROYDON

GEORGETOWN

CARDWELL  
GIRRINGUN ABORIGINAL ART CENTRE

CAMOOWEAL

MOUNT ISA



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Image Opposite: *Fresh Oysters*, Hassandra Savage (2012)





## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

*Noel Zaro (OAM)*

Greetings to all, first and foremost as part of my upbringing I give thanks and praise to the creator Lord God, Jesus Christ our saviour, to all guardian angels who protect us from all things that are bad.

Acknowledgement to the traditional custodians of the Cairns region where UMI Arts Ltd is base, Gimuy Walubara Yidinji, and fellow neighbouring clans Kunganji, Irukanji, Tjapukai. Acknowledgement also to other clan groups who I have not mentioned who are associated to the four clans of the Cairns City Council region.

Acknowledgement to Ms Henrietta Marrie AM, who is our UMI Arts Patron.

Acknowledgement to UMI Arts' all-Indigenous board of directors, staff and most important, to all members and friends.

Acknowledgement to our funding partners – Arts Queensland, IVAIS, Cairns City Council, Australian Council of the Arts.

The current situation now and in the past concerning Covid – 19 health restrictions has had a major impact on UMI Arts, where meetings, events and functions had to be cancelled or postponed.

On behalf of the board of directors I do congratulate and thank all staff and contractors of UMI Arts for the changing work environment, to have workshops with very limited members, to involve artist members to showcase their artwork at exhibitions, going out to visit artist members, to keep UMI Arts shop up and running through this challenging time.

Also for the successful Big Talk One Fire Symposium that was held at Bulmba-ja Arts Centre in June, I was honoured to say a few words during the opening and to see local member Micheal Healy MP and local council, representatives from our funding partners, fellow director La Donna Hollingsworth, and UMI Arts members guest speaking and attending the Symposium.

Again Covid-19 restricted numbers of attendees but UMI Arts staff have done well to make the Symposium a success. Finally a big thank you to Bulmba-ja Arts Centre for partnering UMI Arts to host the Symposium in their facility, this will lead to a better future of partnerships between UMI Arts and Bulmba-ja Arts Centre.

**Noel Zaro (OAM)**

*Chairperson*



## EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

*Peter Lenoy*

I would like to acknowledge the UMI Arts Board of Directors and staff and thank them for their support and guidance for the 2020/21 financial year. The 2020/21 financial year has been a very big year for UMI Arts with lots of challenges. These challenges were overcome by trying new strategies of engaging with online marketing and attending zoom team meetings. It certainly was a new way of doing business.

The UMI Arts board, management and staff are excited to present our 2020 "Freshwater Saltwater" curated exhibition which included 14 Artists. The event was our "Blue Chip" Exhibition for emerging and seasoned members to showcase their talents. The title Freshwater Saltwater reflects a unity and primal connection of all Indigenous First Nation people of Far North Queensland with the land which sustains and nurtures them – spiritually and physically. The curated exhibition by Trish Bernard draws works from passionate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artist members of UMI Arts.

We acknowledge and thank our Funding Partners who share our vision and commitment in supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and cultural practitioners in Far North Queensland. UMI Arts like the rest of Australia was heavily impacted upon by the Coronavirus pandemic. Fortunately UMI had kept our office doors open in getting through the Coronavirus pandemic as the region remained reasonably COVID free. We had to put in place a COVID Safe Workplace Plan, practicing social distancing, use hand sanitisers, place floor markers on the gallery floor and wearing face masks where applicable; this I think has become our new norm.

In 2020/21 UMI Arts had delivered on 8 exhibitions and 15 art development workshops and 4 markets at Rainforest Station, Bumba-ja Art Centre, Cairns Indigenous Art Fair and Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair. We strengthened our relationship with our Royal Australian Navy partners by delivering two Cultural Dance and Art Instructional service activities to support their Navy Indigenous Development Program (NIDP).

We also note our partnership with the Pullman International Hotel where we have developed a key relationship of hanging our fine art in their establishment for the benefit of our artist. UMI Arts had consolidated our relationship with a number of key stakeholders such as the Cairns Regional Council, QTIC Tourism Indigenous Champions Network, Life Without Barriers, Royal Australian Navy, SeaSwift Freight Carriers, Torres Strait Regional Authority, Piconnes Shopping Centres and Cairns Chambers of Commerce.

Our Board of Directors have been a tower of strength in defining

the way forward. We have kick started this calendar year with our You & Me exhibition. Another project worth mentioning was the partnership with Arts Qld in delivering an Arts Symposium. UMI Arts held our inaugural arts symposium at the Bumba-ja Arts Centre on 10 June 2021. Feedback from participants and guest speakers was very positive with many wanting another symposium to be held for next year. Invited speakers ranged from Arts Law, National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA), Artist in the Black, TTNQ, Chambers of Commerce, Many Rivers, Indigenous Arts Code, Arts Law, Arts QLD, Australia Council and Cairns Regional Council. Michael Healy MP officially launched the symposium with over 70 participants attending.

Whilst the highlights of the financial year were the Lore to Law Courthouse exhibition, the Rainforest Station Markets and the Big Talk One Fire symposium, the low light was the cancellation of our annual Big Talk One Fire cultural festival due to COVID-19.

In a year of great achievements for UMI Arts, I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge current and former staff: Lisa Michl, Thelma Savage, Erick Kasukulu, Smith Lui and Del Russon, who at key times assisted UMI in the delivery of our programs.

UMI Arts would like to thank all contractors for their great work for the Corporation over the last 12 months, and also thanks its funding partners, and is honoured that support has been received from:

- Arts Queensland for organisational funding
- IVAIS to support staff and delivery of UMI Arts Visual Arts Programs
- Ministry of the Arts funding for two fulltime staff positions
- Australia Council for the Arts Four Year Visual Arts and Crafts Strategy

During 2020/21 UMI Arts continued to deliver its annual suite of programs such as exhibitions, events and workshops as well as introducing new activities from a range of government and philanthropic funding sources.

I want to acknowledge the 800 plus Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are UMI Arts members. UMI Arts exists because of their commitment and support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, culture and music in Far North Queensland.

**Peter Lenoy**  
*Executive Officer*



## **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

*Lisa Michl Ko-manggén (OAM)*

Our UMI Arts Members have varying skill levels and motivations for practicing art, so our Visual Arts and Exhibition and Workshop program has been adapted to respond to these needs. Our program targets:

Emerging artists in the early stages of their career who have perhaps recently graduated from an art college. They have created a modest independent body of work and are exploring themes and techniques in their work. They are seeking to raise their profile through participation in group or solo exhibitions locally.

Mid-Career artists who have created an independent body of work over several years and received regional or national recognition through publication or public presentation of their work. They have been included in numerous group and solo exhibitions with prominent local, national and international galleries and art museums.

Established artists at a mature stage in their career with an extensive body of independent work featured in local, national and international group and solo exhibitions at major art museums and commercial galleries. Their arts practice has reached an advanced level of achievement by sustaining a nationally or internationally recognized contribution to the discipline. Their artworks have been acquired by private collectors and public institutions and their arts practice is featured in publications, surveys and art awards.

Each year we conduct several Visual Arts and Business workshops aimed at engaging member artists across these three levels. These programs include; Exhibition Ready, Side by Side - Go See, Side by Side - Come Share, and our Artists in Residence. We are also working towards providing alternate platforms for members to participate in our workshop programs.

Our UMI Arts Exhibition program is run concurrently and has been developed to build on professional, mid-career and emerging artist's profiles and showcase their artworks to a local and interstate audience.

These exhibitions include:

You & Me – Annual member's exhibition @ UMI Gallery open to any member artists. Works on paper and canvas.  
Freshwater Saltwater – Annual signature members exhibition @ UMI Gallery showcasing mid-career and established artists that have participated in UMI Arts programs  
Exhibition Ready – Skills development, assistance and

business advice to prepare your first solo exhibition  
Cairns International Art Fair – Group exhibition for established & professional artists that have participated in UMI Arts programs

Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair – Group exhibition for established & professional artists that have participated in UMI Arts programs

Artist in Residence – 6 weeks of studio use to prepare a body of work for UMI exhibitions

Summer Show – Annual member's exhibition @ UMI Gallery open to any member artists. Small works, objects, artefacts, prints and paper: "Portable and affordable".

In light of COVID-19 travel restrictions, we are moving forward with presenting our member's artworks through various online platforms and refreshing our UMI Arts Website.

Our UMI Arts Exhibition Officer and Curators ensure that member artists are supported and their artworks are photographed, catalogued, promoted and well-presented during each exhibition. As part of our commitment to our artists, UMI Arts continues to invest in the contracting of a professional photographer, graphic designer, and PR and marketing consultant, to maximise high-quality exposure for our artists and their artworks. A full colour exhibition catalogue is produced to support each curated exhibition and is available to each participating artist, as well as buyers and visitors.

We are continually seeking new opportunities and partnerships that allow us to further showcase our artist members and their artworks outside of UMI Arts' gallery, from public initiatives to private commissions.

Let's start something new!

**Lisa Michl Ko-manggén (OAM)**  
*Artistic Director*

# VISION & MILESTONES

## Our Organisation

UMI Arts is an incubator Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultural organisation for Far North Queensland, which covers an area that extends north of Cairns to include the Torres Strait Islands, south to Cardwell, west to Camooweal and includes the Gulf and Mt Isa regions. UMI Arts is a not-for-profit company governed and managed by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Board. We operate a cultural organisation that assists Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders to participate in the maintenance, preservation and protection of culture. UMI is a Creole word that means You and Me.

For over 15 years UMI Arts has developed innovative, community-driven arts and cultural programs delivered to members in communities across Tropical North Queensland. Our programs are designed to take participants on a learning journey where they can access a wide range of tools and resources suited to their skills and career level. Starting in their youth with exposure to arts and cultural workshops, and progressing through the emerging, mid-career and established phase of their arts career, our members are on a lifelong journey of skills development and cultural learning. We support our members who are independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander visual and performing artists from across Tropical North Queensland. We showcase their creative works through exhibitions and events, as well as supporting their professional development through workshops and training seminars.

## VISION

### Our vision

Connected communities strong in arts and culture.

### Our purpose

To maintain and strengthen the identity of the Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders in our region through our arts and cultural programs.

### Our values

- ❖ We conduct our business with integrity and respect
- ❖ We work together with our members and stakeholders
- ❖ We are committed to creative excellence and capacity building
- ❖ We believe that arts and culture connect communities to make them stronger.

### Our key outcome areas

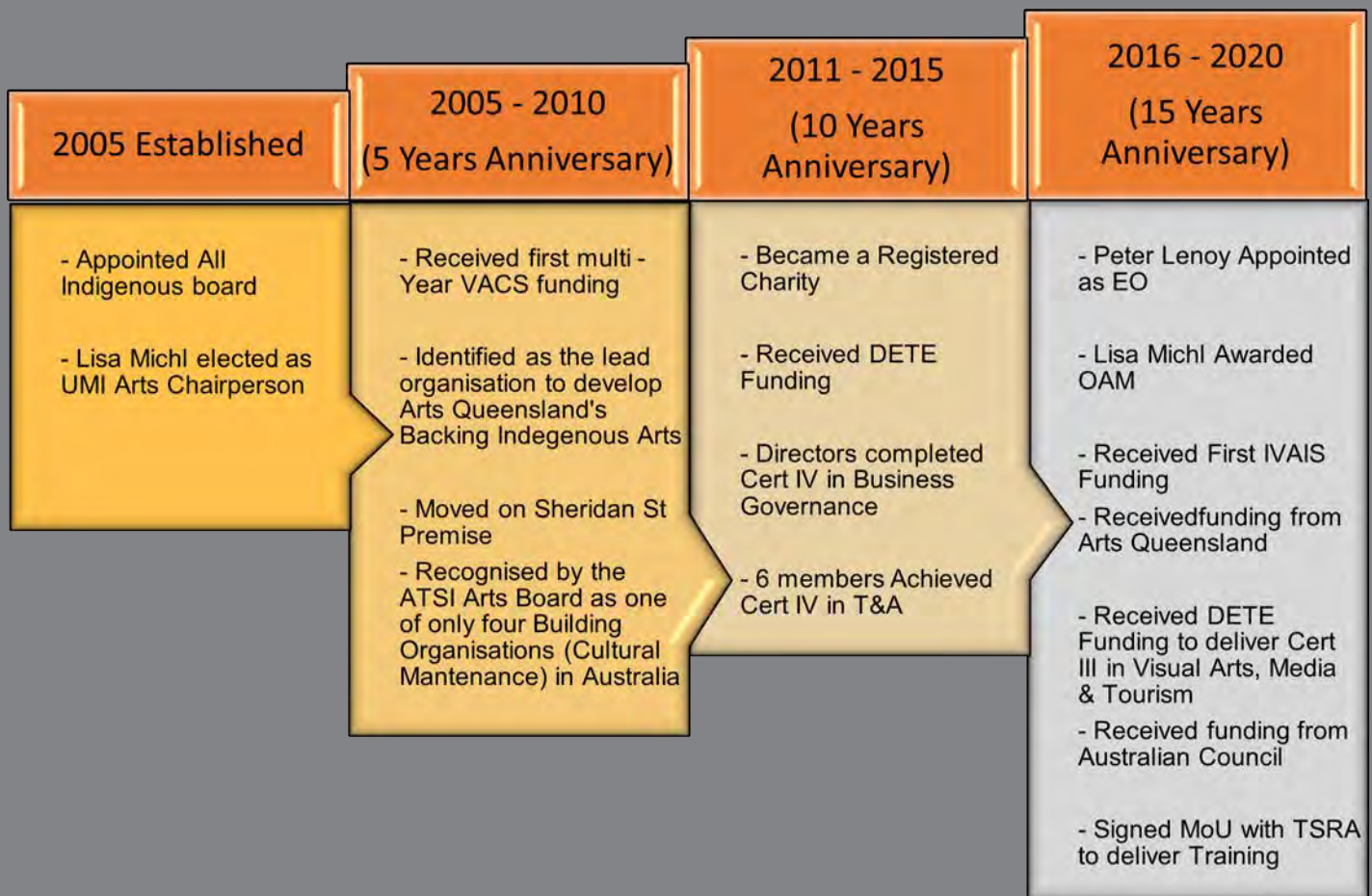
1. Skilling our Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander artists and communities for success
2. Strengthening and sharing our local cultures
3. Growing partnerships
4. Being a strong voice for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander arts and culture



## Board of Directors

UMI Arts takes pride in its diverse board of directors, holding its status as one of very few Indigenous organisations with a full Indigenous board. Our directors represent their respective communities on all levels, and voice the needs of their communities. They play a pivotal role in making sure the needs of our members and artists are met. For the last four years, they have overseen unqualified financial reports. For the last 12 months as we have navigated through COVID-19, our directors have been a strong and reliable source to inform and update us on the happenings within their communities. And for that, we would like to thank them; we are looking forward to working together again over the 12 months and beyond. v

## ACHIEVEMENTS



# BUSINESS STRATEGY

## UMI Arts 4-Year Business strategy

As the organisational goal for our 2025, UMI Arts management along with the board has drawn up a 2021 – 2025 business strategy. The strategy outlines the goals and beliefs for UMI Arts, it includes the vision and strengthen the values for this organisation.

It encompasses UMI Arts’ funding partners’ Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) as well as our board and Management KPIs with the vision to meet our members’ needs.

UMI Arts’ strategic direction and program areas have been informed by an analysis of our internal and external operating environment together with a clear understanding of our markets. Our major initiatives over the 2021-25 period are:

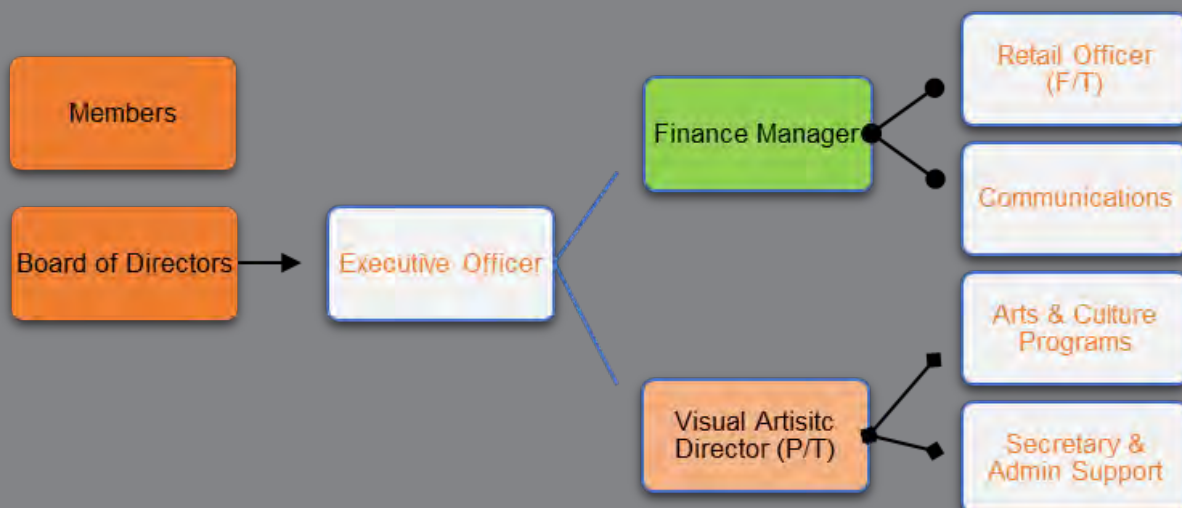
1. Skilling our Indigenous artists and communities for success
2. Strengthening and sharing our local cultures
3. Growing partnerships
4. Being a strong voice for Indigenous arts and culture.

## Internal Situation

UMI Arts has continued to upskill its board members and staff to make sure they are equipped with the latest knowledge of the sector.

The board participated in first day of training in Governance in early July with the second session due at the next board meeting. The training covered latest legal and compliance issues that will enable the board to ensure the organisational governance reports and requirements are obeyed. Staff and management participated in similar training separately, emphasising the importance of good management and the relationship between the board governance and management in making an organisation successful.

There has been a shuffle in our internal team with the creation of 3 new positions. We are delighted to welcome Lisa Michl in her new position as the Visual Artistic director, Erick Kasukulu as our new Finance Manager and Robyne Pacey as the Exhibition Officer. The new roles will enable UMI Arts to reach new heights as the positions contribute to the much-needed skills.





## Succession planning

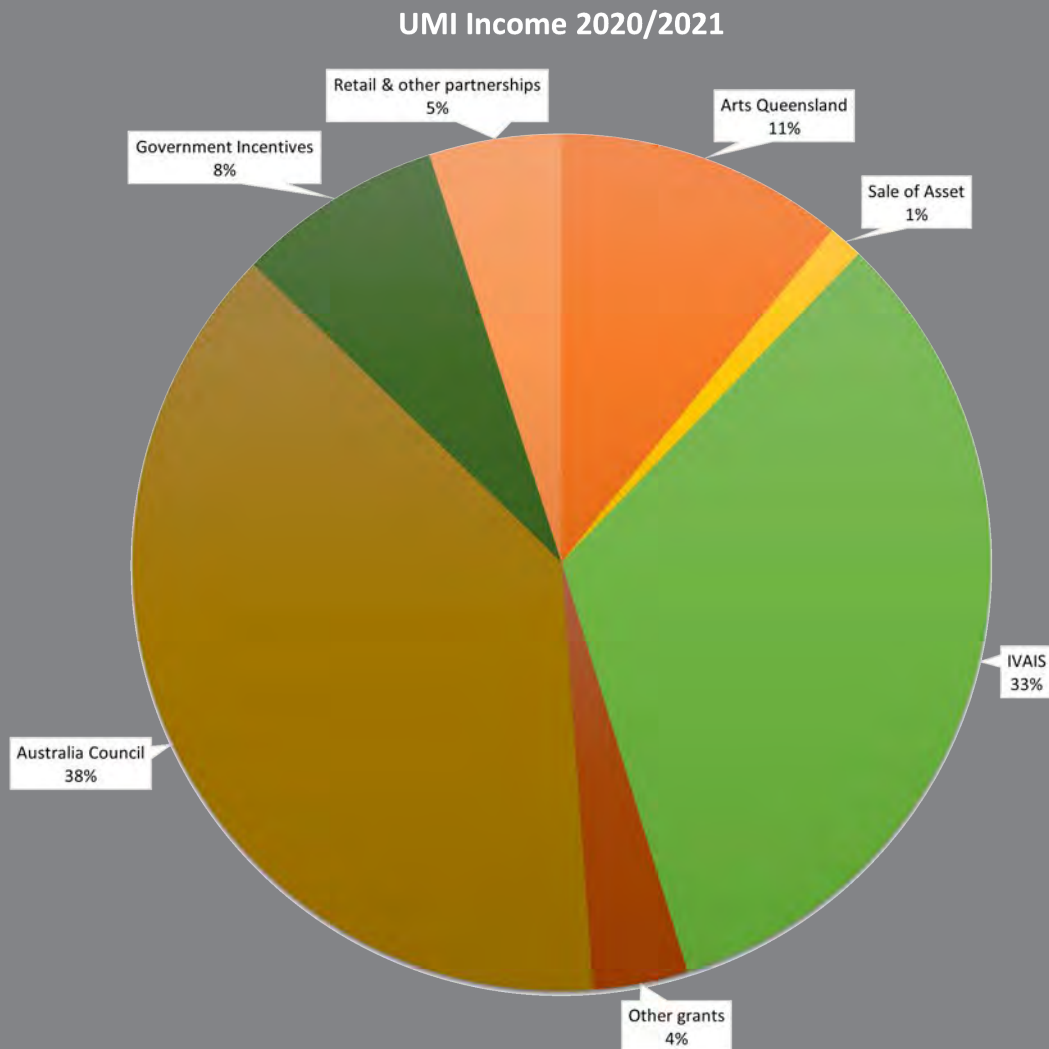
The UMI Arts board succession plan is based on ensuring that directors of UMI Arts have strong linkages with leaders in communities around Far North Queensland and that any vacancies on the board can be filled by individuals who have sound knowledge of the purpose and mission of the organisation. Under the amended constitution, only voting members of UMI Arts are eligible to be nominated as directors. More effort will be directed at mentoring new Board members, especially young people involved in the Arts sector.

## Partnership

UMI Arts has continued to strengthen the relationship with its partners including the Pullman hotel, Bulmba-Ja, Piccones IGA, Life Without Barriers, Tropic Magazine, Cairns Regional Council, Tourism Tropical North Queensland, Tourism & Events Queensland. UMI Arts is always looking at exploring other avenues for partnerships, and is focusing on fostering our youth engagement for future generation artists through collaboration with Djarragun College and Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good (GIYDG).

## Membership

UMI Arts continues to cater for its growing membership. As of 30 June 2021, UMI Arts had 914 members, this is an increase of over 50 members from the year before. UMI Arts is dedicated to increasing its members every year. The organisation listens and responds to its members, that's why we have launched a newly designed survey for our members and interested members. The survey is a way members tell us what training, workshop, or programs they are interested in and how UMI Arts can support their business and interest.



# MARKETING

UMI Arts has kept its focus on marketing the UMI Arts brand, to expand our reach into communities and engage more interest and partners. A major focus for the 2022 year will be to connect our artists and members across a national and international level. UMI Arts has invested in its marketing by reaching out to Arts industry leaders, increasing both the amount and the quality of UMI Arts publications and advertising.

To make sure reach is capitalised on, UMI Arts has featured in the following publications:

Arts Collector's "The Guide to Indigenous Arts Centres" Arts and Travel series 2021 - 2023

Arts Collector, October - December 2021 Issue (ongoing features)

Art Almanac Art Centre guide - detailed feature articles about current and upcoming exhibitions and programs

TTNQ & TEQ's Tourist Attraction Guide; *Big Talk One Fire* featured in "Top 8 must see events in Far North Queensland"

Visual Arts Association quarterly newsletter

Tropic Magazine - Monthly feature with article and photographs of current events and exhibitions

Cairns Post - Frequent exposure and coverage, including full feature article about Freshwater Saltwater exhibition.


## Social Media Engagement

UMI Arts has increased its social media presence with an increase of posts, and a focus on ensuring all content is engaging and well-presented. This has doubled our online reach from the previous year (reach of 5,234 from July 2020 - June 2021, compared to 2,204 in the year before), greatly increasing our online engagements. The more active and involved UMI Arts can be on social media, the more it becomes a valuable platform for both communication and advertising.

## UMI Arts

**Thank you for advertising in Issue 27 of Tropic.**

Here is a snapshot of how we delivered your brand and message to audiences across the Far North throughout **December 2020 and January 2021.**



**Your advertisement** featured on page **57**

**Your editorial** featured on page **28 & 53**

**7,500** copies of Tropic Magazine were distributed from Mossman to Innisfail

Your digital ad on Tropic Now had **12,556** page impressions


The **online magazine** flipbook has been viewed **78** times for your ad

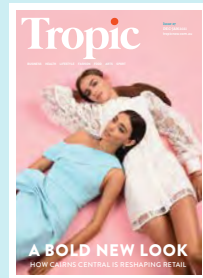
Your **Editorial** was published on Tropic Now on **10/12/20 and 04/01/21** and received **601** page views

The **online magazine** flipbook has been viewed **368** times for your editorial

We mentioned your business in a social post on **10/12/20 and 04/01/21** reaching an audience of **6074**

Your business appeared in Tropic's **weekly email blast** to **8,000+** subscribers on **11/12/20**





To secure your place in the next issue of *Tropic*, contact:  
**Leah Horstmann**  
leah@tropicgroup.com.au  
0424 609 748

**Issue 28**  
**February - March**  
Available first week of February 2021

**Issue 29**  
**April - May**  
Hitting the streets in the first week of April 2021

**Editorial content**  
Due 5 March 2021

**Advertising artwork**  
Due 12 March 2021

Tropic Marketing Summary for UMI Arts (Issue 27, Dec 2020 - Jan 2021)

## New Website Refresh

A brand new UMI Arts website is currently under construction and will be ready to go live over the coming weeks. The new website will be a way to talk directly to the world, learn about more opportunities, and increase collaboration with other organisations and artists. It will let the world know that we are more than just arts, and highlight the support and programs available to support our members.



## UMI ARTS



UMI ARTS is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultural organisation for far North Queensland, an area that extends north of Cairns to include the Torres Strait Islands, south to Cardwell, west to Camooweal and includes the Gulf of Carpentaria and Mount Isa regions.

Established in 2005, UMI Arts' mission is to operate an Indigenous organisation that assists Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to participate in the maintenance, preservation and protection of cultural identity.

UMI Arts lives by a vision of creating connected communities strong in arts and culture.

The purpose of UMI Arts is to maintain and strengthen the identity of the Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders in the region through it's arts and cultural programs.

The organisation operates a physical as well as an online retail shop where you can buy arts and gifts.

UMI Arts run workshops for it's members and public events that can be accessed for registration via it's website.

UMI Arts are always excited to host new visitors and it's centre is always open for a walk through or visit any day during opening hours.

Artists include:  
Robert Tommy Paul, Lisa Nichol Mc-managers GAN, Dorothy Edwards, William Savage, Kat Williams, Michael Hata, Paul Bong, Michael Boyner Arning



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umarts



Arts Collector's "The Guide to Indigenous Arts Centres" Arts and Travel series 2021 - 2023 Pages (128 - 129)

Google My Business

### UMI Arts Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Arts Gallery, Cairns

**4,283 PEOPLE FOUND YOU ON GOOGLE**

Here are the top search queries used to find you:

aboriginal used by 197 people	aboriginal art cairns used by 56 people	cairns aboriginal used by 50 people
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Google analytics: search queries used to find UMI Arts

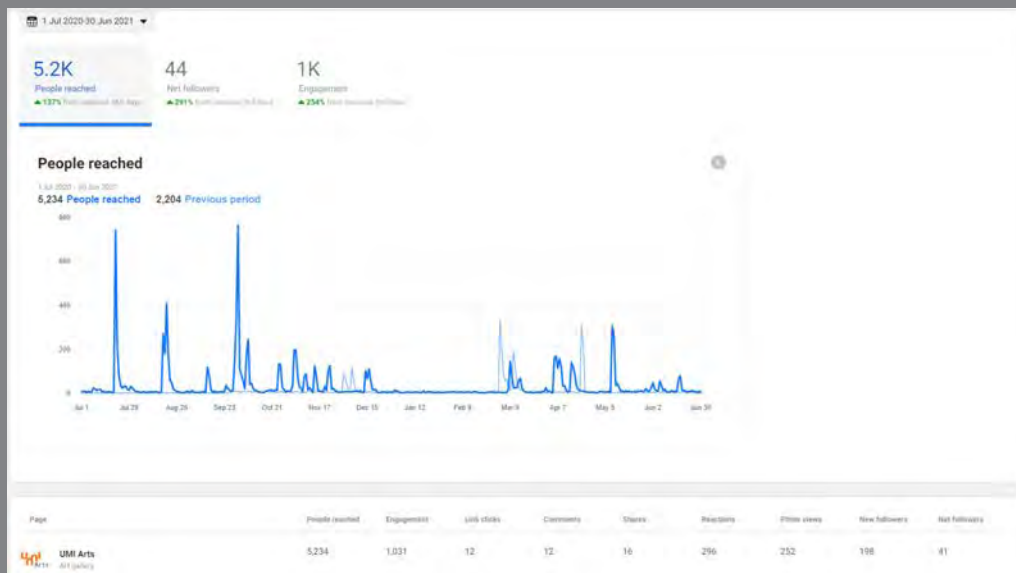
### WHAT CUSTOMERS ARE SAYING ABOUT YOU

Congrats, UMI Arts Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Arts Gallery, Cairns has a 4.6 star rating on Google

★★★★★

Stay connected to your customers. Make sure that you reply to their reviews and comments.

Google analytics: 4.6 star rating from reviews



Facebook Analytics: 5,234 people reached from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, >137% from previous year.

# UMI Arts 15th Anniversary @ Pullman International



(Back row) L-R William Blanco, Leo Akee, David Hudson, Kel Williams, Tommy Pau & (front row) L-R Dorothy Edwards, Priscilla Major, Susan Reys, Jahzara Trench and Lisa Michl OAM



(Back row) L-R Peter Lenoy, Del Devina, Priscilla Major, Michael Solomon, Leo Akee and Thelma Savage (Seated) L-R Traditional Owner, Henrietta Fourmile Marrie AO & Lisa Michl OAM

Tuesday 27 October 2020; A night of reflection and celebration – UMI Arts marks 15 years under a Far North Queensland sun. It was a perfect night under a starlit sky in Cairns when the team, Board and artist members of UMI Arts came together to celebrate the organisation’s 15th anniversary. Speaking at the milestone celebration at the Pullman Cairns International, UMI Arts Executive Officer Peter Lenoy said the occasion was particularly special after what has been a challenging year. “The fortitude of our organisation is testament to the way in which we have overcome the difficulties of this year’s pandemic by still managing to launch two exhibitions, including our first ever online gallery that formed part of Cairns Indigenous Art Fair’s 2020 digital program.” Mr Lenoy said the future is bright. Just last week the organisation took possession of a new vehicle that will enable UMI Arts to develop and implement outreach programs. “This is exciting as we are now able to take UMI Arts to the communities and help those emerging artists who would otherwise be restricted. “We are about fulfilling our peoples’ potential and building pathways to future success,” Mr Lenoy said. Mr Lenoy thanked UMI Arts Board, staff, artists and funding partners for their contribution that underpinned the celebratory gathering.

*From Media Release issued by Pip Miller PR*

## Pullman International Hotel

UMI Arts was successful as being the preferred provider in supplying artworks to Pullman International during their renovations. UMI Arts was given four floors in which to supply artwork and reproduction prints for each room on those four floors. UMI Arts worked closely with Arts Law in developing licencing agreements in order to protect the artist copyright to their artworks. It was a great outcome with artist being paid suitable fees for their artworks and prints. Arts Law stated that the process was a great example of industry best practise.



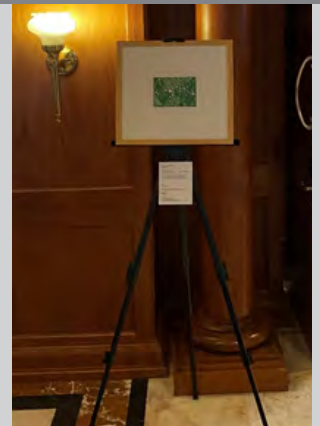
### Pop-up Exhibition @ The Pullman

UMI Arts provided a small scale exhibition at the entrance of the CATSINaM National Conference Series – ‘Back to the Fire’, on 12 & 13 April 2021 at the Pullman International Hotel.

UMI provided:

- easels for display;
- framed prints;
- curatorial services, installation of works and provision of wall cards

The 10 artworks were positioned throughout the lobby outside the Pullman Grand Ball room outside the conference. UMI also supplied the conference participants with corporate gift packs.





# EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

## MAJOR EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS PROGRAM:

**You and Me:** Annual exhibition of member artist works on paper and canvas.

**Exhibition Ready:** Skills development, assistance, and business advice to prepare first solo exhibition for member artists.

**Freshwater Saltwater:** Annual signature members exhibition showcasing mid-career and established artists who have participated in UMI Arts programs.

**The Summer Show:** Annual members exhibition open to member artists. Small works, objects, artefacts, prints and paper: “Portable and affordable”. *(from 2021 replaces Alumni Exhibition)*

**Big Talk One Fire Concert & Markets:** Free, family-friendly concert that brings together headlining and supporting local Indigenous bands, traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance performers, and pop-up Indigenous market stalls.

**Big Talk One Fire Symposium:** Conference and Networking event where Partners from our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts sector will present current opportunities and provide a safe, community environment for members to share talents and learn side by side.



# EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

## Freshwater Saltwater Exhibition

9 July to 8 September 2020

“Artist response shows spiritual and physical connection to country is boundless. After a period of closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, UMI Arts’ Jensen Street Gallery has come out of its hibernation and reopened to the public on Monday 6 July 2020.”

The exhibition, curated by Trish Barnard, was a collection of more than 30 works (including lino prints) showcasing artists’ spiritual and physical connection to country, curated to celebrate UMI Arts’ 15th anniversary in its 2020 Freshwater Saltwater exhibition opening.

Responding to this year’s theme, Boundless, the works were extremely diverse in style and medium. Lino cut, digital and fabric screen prints to acrylic on canvas, watercolours, ceramics, softwood rainforest timber shields and firemakers, were all on show and open to the public at UMI Arts.

### Exhibiting Artists

Elverina Johnson  
Francoise Lane  
Glen Mackie  
Jack Wilkie Jans  
Lisa Michl  
Lynelle Flinders  
Michael Anning  
Natasha Davui  
Dorothy Edwards  
Susan Reys  
Trish Barnard



## ‘Through Our Eyes’ Photography Exhibition

24 September – 1 December 2020

‘Through Our Eyes’ was a photography exhibition of two selected artists – Nerelle Nicol and Gertrude Davis. Curator Trish Barnard provided mentoring and professional advice to the artists and curated the exhibition, presenting twelve A3 sized limited edition new works. The artists were encouraged to produce photographs that conveyed their spiritual and physical connection to their country.



Unfortunately, although COVID-19 Health Directives were relaxed in the Cairns region, the exhibit was visited by less people than usual in the spring period compared with previous years. A full summary of the artists background and stories was prepared for Pip Miller to assist with exhibition publicity. The Curator also prepared specific text to market each work on UMI Arts Facebook page each week, as with lower visitors to the UMI Arts gallery, maintaining a digital presence was crucial.





# EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

## Exhibition Ready Exhibition: 'Duliny the Artist: Susan Reys'

10 December to 16 January 2021

The UMI Arts 'Exhibition Ready' program guides and mentors artists through each step of gallery exhibition preparation, presentation and promotion, whilst working towards a six week long exhibition at UMI Arts Galleries in Cairns. The exhibition titled, 'Duliny the Artist: Susan Reys' was the culmination of the artist's participation in the 'Exhibition Ready' program, completed during the COVID-19 lockdown under the mentorship of curator, Trish Barnard. Although Susan Rey was already an experienced ceramicist, and had been running her own successful retail business, she had not yet put on a solo show. During the program Rey gained the skills and experience needed to exhibit independently in the future.

Barnard explained, "It was during one of Susan Rey's regular visits to her traditional Guugu Yimithirr homelands, that she collected ochre clay from a creek on country and then through experimentation and a new technical direction, produced a range of exciting new works". The show is made up of acrylic paintings on canvas and ceramic works.

UMI Arts is proud to nurture and support artists in progressing their career with mentorships, skills development and exhibition opportunities.



## Lore to Law Courthouse Exhibition

19 February until 1 May 2021

"An exhibition at the new Cairns Court House gallery launches a packed 2021 schedule for UMI Arts. After celebrating 15 years of supporting and developing First Nations artists in 2020, the peak Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultural organisation for Far North Queensland is hitting the ground running this year. The aptly named "Lore to Law" exhibition will be on display at the recently renovated Cairns Courthouse." *Media Release issued by Pip Miller PR*

The exhibition was open to the public from 19 February until 1 May 2021. The "Lore to Law" exhibition featured the works of local artist of Paul Bong, Shirley Collins, Susan Reys, Natasha Daviu, Elverina Johnson, Tommy Pau and Arone Meeks. The exhibition was curated by Ms Trish Barnard.





# EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

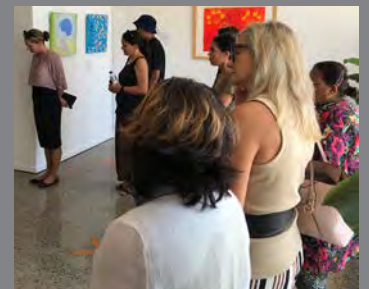


## You and Me Exhibition 8 April – 21 May 2021

'You and Me' is an annual curated exhibition at UMI Arts profiling young and emerging artists. UMI accepted artwork created in the past 12 months or new works. This exhibition provided an exciting opportunity to showcase the rich artistic diversity of UMI Arts member artists. Visitor feedback suggests that the diversity of artworks, mediums and styles was a drawcard. Attendance may have been affected by lack of advertisement online. Exhibition was extended due to program re-scheduling. 3 works were sold to local private collectors.



**Exhibiting Artists**  
Natasha Davui  
Shirley Collins  
Dorothy Edwards  
Trish Barnard  
Lisa Michl



## Big Talk One Fire Symposium 2021 10 June 2021

UMI Arts held our inaugural arts symposium at the Bumba-ja Arts Centre on 10 June 2021. Invited speakers ranged from Arts Law, Artist in the Black, TTNQ, Chambers of Commerce, Many Rivers, Indigenous Arts Code, Arts Law, Artist in the Black, Arts Qld, Australia Council and Cairns Regional Council.

Michael Healy MP officially launched the symposium with over 70 participants attending. The event featured the Kuranda Weavers displaying their skills while talks were held, and creating a fantastic reminder of the event which is still displayed in the UMI Arts Shop. Attendees were encouraged to participate in talks, with lots of time given to questions and discussion with the audience.

After the event program, attendees were entertained by the Maluigal Dancers and then headed to Crystalbrook Bailey for refreshments with musician Naurita Briscoe and friends performing.

BTOF Symposium 2021 was a great success, with very positive feedback from participants and guest speakers, with many indicating they would like to see the symposium repeated next year.







**BTOF Symposium 2021**

**Speakers:**

- Susan Rey - Artist
- Paul Bong - Artist
- Merindi Schrieber & Lia Pa'apa'a - Ngammu
- Liz Cavanagh - Musician
- Garth Murgha - Artist, Native Creations Australia
- Melanie Hava - Artist
- Suzanne Derry - Arts Law
- Gabrielle Sullivan - CEO, Indigenous Art Code Limited
- Georgia Mokak - NAVA
- Mark Olsen - CEO, TNQ
- Sally Mlikota - President, Cairns Chamber of Commerce
- Donna Burton - Many Rivers
- Stephen Foster - Cairns Regional Council
- Jon Niehaus - Arts Queensland, Bulmba-ja Arts Centre
- Anastasia Charles - Australia Council
- Jen Houston - Cairns Regional Council





WORKSHOPS & PROGRAMS





# WORKSHOPS & PROGRAMS

## Side by Side 'Go See' Program

The Side by Side - Go See programs are held for UMI Arts members, free of charge with all materials supplied, unless stated otherwise. Members are encouraged to participate in these sessions as they provide an opportunity for members to visit local galleries, studios and suppliers they may not be familiar with and also provides a safe, community environment for members to learn side by side. These sessions are facilitated by our members for our members. This encourages our members to share their skills with one another. The Side by Side - Go See program was introduced for UMI Arts members to gain further education and also to provide a community atmosphere where we can all learn new skills together. These sessions also provide cultural strengthening, as members talk to each other and discuss or share their own stories during the course of the sessions. These sessions will also inspire members to connect, upskill and create.

### Session Content:

- Overview UMI Arts Exhibition Program/Induction
- Career Pathways
- Inspiration - Ideas into Art
- Developing a Professional Approach
- Market Research
- Running a Small Business – Artists Perspective
- Understanding Arts Market Needs
- Artists Networking

### Excursions:

**Babinda:** Participants travelled to Babinda to see a demonstration by member artist Kel Williams. Kel's speciality is carving artefacts and using various carving techniques and methods to create functional and individually hand crafted works. During the workshop participants learned about how to use different types of timber and natural and acrylic paints and mediums. UMI Arts staff developed the photography and video techniques recently acquired in our photography workshop.

**Cairns:** Participants visited several local art galleries, including Bulnba-ja Arts Centre, Tanks Art Centre, Ink Masters studio, the Cairns Art Gallery, and the Courthouse 'Lore to Law' Exhibition, presented by UMI Arts. This was particularly designed to assist in the Exhibition-Ready program, to give participants more exposure to local galleries and an introduction to exhibition preparation.

**Mirriwini:** Participants travelled to Mirriwini to visit the studio of member artists Paul and Elizabeth Bong. The visit included a workshop on dry point etching and printmaking, and an introduction to creating sublimated prints and transferring onto clothing.



Paul Bong in his studio with Go-See program participants



UMI member Dorothy Edwards with Artistic Director Lisa Michl at the Courthouse exhibition: Lore to Law



Kel Williams in his studio with UMI staff



# WORKSHOPS & PROGRAMS

## Side by Side 'Come Share' Program

UMI Arts 'Side by Side' program will engage Far North Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists in a 3 day intensive Professional Development workshop for capacity building. The Cairns based workshop will provide both information and hands on exercises facilitated by arts industry professionals and high profile experienced visual artists. Participating artists will be introduced to industry knowledge needed to operate as a practicing visual artist, information about career pathways (eg TAFE, University courses, other networks), opportunities with visual arts projects, and additional mentoring, working side by side with artists.

### Lino Printing Workshop

UMI Arts engaged Master Printer Darren Jones of Acuro company to work with UMI Arts and its member artists to develop lino cutting and printing skills. Seven artist participated in the workshop which also included discussing exhibition agreements and dealing with UMI store as a supplier.

#### *Session Content:*

- Arts business workbook printed for each participant to work through during the workshop and take away as a guide.
- How to write stories for your artwork – examples and activity.
- How to write your artist statement, biography and CV – examples, template and activity.
- Labelling and packaging art products for sale – examples and activity.
- Pricing for wholesale and retail markets – template and activity.
- Storage, care, postage and transit of artworks
- Exhibition and consignment agreements – examples and activity.
- Attending art fairs – visit from CIAF staff and/or presentation by local artist on benefits of attending art fairs and successful strategies to achieve sales.
- Marketing and promotion of your work – view online tools, templates, activity.
- Each participant leaves with an A4 portfolio including initial bio and CV completed during workshop.

### Digital Imaging Workshop

UMI Arts received funding from Arts Queensland to conduct a digital photography workshop for its staff and members. The Digital Imaging Workshop was successfully delivered by Colyn Huber over six separate sessions during February 2021. The Program ran as planned, and all key outputs were achieved according to the scheduled timetable.

Participants were introduced to theoretical and practical aspects of digital capture. The initial focus was on still photography, primarily aimed at enabling artists to capture compelling, professional quality stills of artwork, and then converting those capture files to be shared in the digital environment. The Workshop then focussed on motion capture, once again beginning with a theoretical introduction, followed up by practical application of the ideas discussed.

A variety of devices were discussed in theory and then compared in practice, culminating in a group field excursion which put the course content to use. Participants were able to produce still images, and a video which showcased what was gained from the Workshop. The intended outcomes were achieved in that participants were able to learn to create, manage, and share digital content to tell artists' stories and promote art.

On the whole, the facilities at UMI Arts served very well to allow both the theoretical and practical components of the course to be conducted effectively. The Digital workshop has enabled UMI staff to be trained up in all aspects of photography and video filming in uploading high resolution photos onto our website and online shop.

# WORKSHOPS & PROGRAMS



Artist Paul Bong with facilitator Darren Jones in the UMI workshop



Designing and cutting into lino in the Lino Printing workshop



Participants each produced a series of prints and experimented with different colour inks



Digital Imaging Workshop in the UMI Gallery



UMI staff testing their new skills in the Cairns Botanic Gardens, with photography Colyn Huber



# WORKSHOPS & PROGRAMS



## UMI Arts Markets

Rainforestation Nature Park formed a partnership with UMI Arts to support the development of local indigenous artists, with the launch of the inaugural Pamagirri Art Market. Rainforestation Nature Park in Kuranda has been home to the Pamagirri Aboriginal Experience since 1993, and was awarded the Gold Award for Aboriginal And Torres Strait Islander Tourism at the Queensland Tourism Awards in 2019. The free, no-commission market saw eight stall holders selling a diverse range of art and craft wares ranging from small prints to artefacts, jewelry and handmade souvenirs. Rainforestation Cultural Development Officer Willie Enoch-Tranby said the event was established to provide artists with a platform to show and share their work with a willing audience. “UMI Arts exists to support emerging artists, so they are the perfect partner for us to work with on this, as they are a terrific resource for them.”

Rainforestation Nature Park Presents:

## Pamagirri Art Market

FOR EMERGING INDIGENOUS ARTISTS

Support new Indigenous artists as they emerge into the sun and grow at our Pamagirri Art Market. Browse a range of unique Indigenous artworks by local emerging Indigenous artists. Join us to find a unique Christmas gift, or the next showstopping piece for your home. You may just end up purchasing a piece from the next famed artist!

**DATE** Sunday, 22nd November  
**TIME** 10am - 1pm  
**ADMISSION** Free  
**LOCATION** Rainforestation Nature Park, 1030 Kennedy Highway Kuranda

15 STALLS  
 UMI Arts | The Woodward Family CAPTA GROUP | Rainforestation NATURE PARK KURANDA



From Left: UMI Arts Executive Officer Peter Lenoy and Retail Officer, Thelma Savage

## Have wheels, will travel: UMI Arts hits the road with new outreach series

UMI Arts has a new vehicle that will enable hosting a series of artist workshops in communities across the Far North region – Monday, 26 October 2020. After taking delivery of a new set of wheels this month UMI Arts announced it will drive a series of exciting, community-based initiatives for independent First Nations artists. UMI Arts Executive Officer Peter Lenoy acknowledged the Australia Council for the Arts which has made the vehicle acquisition possible and in so doing, enable their team to undertake recovery-led workshops within the artists’ community. Mr Lenoy said UMI Arts is responding to the challenges confronted by regional and remote communities and specifically, the Indigenous art sector, during COVID-19. “What the new vehicle means is that we can travel to communities and conduct workshops aimed at rebuilding artist capacity and confidence.

“Cairns is the centre point for the region with other neighbouring townships and communities such as Mossman, Mareeba, Atherton, Kuranda, and Yarrabah, being within an hour’s drive and therefore, often inaccessible to artists,” Mr Lenoy said. In coming months, UMI Arts will deliver “You want to be an Artist” workshops as an intensive but informative introduction to groups of emerging and intermediate artists while its ‘Outreach’ programs are designed to provide information and hands-on training. UMI Arts will focus on engaging with its new crop of green shoots artists with the aim of developing this particular cohort group into the next era of exhibiting artists. According to Mr Lenoy there is constant and specific need to operate workshops of this nature in the region. “These workshops are critical to artists’ development and cover a broad range of areas from becoming acquainted with industry to curatorial skills, product development marketing and grant writing,” he said. *From media release issued by Pip Miller PR*



## Naval Indigenous Development Program (NIDP)

UMI Arts continues to deliver Cultural Dance and Art services to the Indigenous Naval recruits for the February – June 2021 group of Cohorts. The Navy usually conduct their Graduation Day ceremony at HMAS Cairns Naval Base, but has hosted the Graduation Day ceremony at Cairns Regional Council’s Munroe Martin Parklands.



# WHAT'S IN STORE FOR UMI 2022?

*For 2022, we look forward to a year full of potential for our members and artists. We look forward to meeting our KPIs as set out in the new business strategy, and are excited to work with our board in reaching out to more communities. We will look to expand our membership and corporate engagement, and to create new opportunities to partner with other industries, including tourism, disability, and government institutions. We will keep delivering valuable workshops and programs to encourage skills building and professional development of our members. We will continue showcasing our member artist's talents in high-quality exhibitions and events, and incubating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, culture and music in Far North Queensland.*

*UMI Arts would like to thank its members, Directors, staff and funding partners for helping us achieve the 15 years milestone.*

## **Board Members**

**Noel Zaro - Chairperson**

**Leo Akee - Deputy Chairperson**

**Michael Solomon - Director**

**Priscilla Major - Director**

**Pauline Lifu - Director**

**La-Donna Ballangarry Kearins - Acting Director**

## **UMI Arts Patron**

**Henrietta Marrie, OA**

## **Funding partners**

**Australia Council for the Arts**

**Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (Australian Government – IVAIS)**

**Queensland Government (Arts Qld)**

**Cairns Regional Council**

**Tourism Tropical North Qld (TTNQ)**

**Tourism Events Qld**

**Piconnes IGA**





**Robert Raper**  
**Vertical Stripes**  
 2019  
 100cm x 150cm  
 Acrylic on canvas  
 \$1,200

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