Alick Tipoti
Zugubal: Ancestral Spirits
10 July – 6 September ‘15

Artwork labels
Alick Tipoti
Kal Lagaw Ya

Gubau Aima Maibaigal (Four winds)
2006
single block vinyl cut in black ink printed on Hahnemuhle 350gsm
Cairns Art Gallery.
Donated through the Australian Government’s Cultural Gifts Program
by Editions Tremblay NFP, 2012

Gubau Aima Mabaigal means ‘Wind Makers’ in Zenadh Kes language. They are the
zugubal (spiritual ancestors) who create and control the four winds that clear the
airways of the islands. This print shows the yearly seasonal calendar of Tipoti’s people,
the Maluilgal. In this image Tipoti has transformed information that was documented
by Sydney H. Ray during the 1898 Cambridge University anthropology expedition to
Mabuaig Island led by Alfred Cort Haddon.

Small circles along the bottom border represent the twelve kisai/moelpal (moons/
months) of the year. All the different images along the print are placed as if on a timeline.
In this way the print represents what the Maluilgal people call the wiath (year). The four
great zugubal figures represented in the image are responsible for controlling the four
seasons/winds of the island world. Zenadh Kes ancestors referred to these winds as
kuki (north-westerly winds), wour/sager (south-easterly winds), naigai (north-easterly
winds), and zay (south-westerly winds).
**Zugubal**

2006

single block vinyl cut in black ink printed on Hahnemuhle 350 gsm

Collection of the artist

Zugubal is plural for zugub. Zugubal spiritual ancestors in western Zenadh Kes look like humans while they inhabit the island world, but they are super human in their strength and deeds. They have the ability to transform into any shape or form in the natural world. Zugubal possess powers that enable them to summon thunder, lightning, wind, and rain, and they control the movement and moods of the sea. This image depicts a group of zugubal navigating by the stars of their great zugub leaders who are the brothers, Thagai and Kang. The star constellation above the travellers shows the movement of Thagai and Kang. The Southern Cross is the left hand of Thagai, holding the spears. Corvus is the right hand of Thagai. Kang sits in Scorpio, the canoe part of this constellation.

**Girelal**

2011

single block vinyl cut in black ink printed on Hahnemuhle 350 gsm

Cairns Art Gallery

Donation through the Australian Government’s Cultural Gifts Program by Editions Tremblay NFP, 2012

This print depicts the cultural connection between the Islanders and their spiritual ancestors the Muruygal. It shows the stages and sequences of traditional chants and some of the totems and stories we dance about.

**Warup (drum)**

2015

fibreglass & string

Courtesy of the artist
Apu Kaz
2008
single block vinyl cut in black ink printed on Hahnemuhle 350 gsm, handcoloured
Courtesy of the artist

Apu Kaz is a term commonly used for a dugong mother and calf. The hunters of Zenadh Kes (Torres Strait) know many secrets about the dugong and have a very special relationship with these marine mammals. Very little of this information is shared with people outside of Zenadh Kes. The calf depicted in this print is at the stage in its development when it is about to feed on its own and fend for itself. The mother is showing the calf how to dive deeply in the strong current. The patterning represents the many different currents that flow through the islands of which the people have intimate knowledge and respect.

Baywa (Water spout - turtle)
2014
single block vinyl cut in black ink printed on Hahnemuhle, handcoloured
Courtesy of the artist

Baywa (Water spout - dugong)
2014
single block vinyl cut in black ink printed on Hahnemuhle, handcoloured
Courtesy of the artist

Kisay Girer
2014
single block vinyl cut in black ink printed on Hahnemuhle, handcoloured
Courtesy of the artist
**Kisay Mabayg**

2014

single block vinyl cut in black ink printed on Hahnemuhle, handcoloured

Courtesy of the artist

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**Kisay Dhangal**

2014

single block vinyl cut in black ink printed on Hahnemuhle, handcoloured

Courtesy of the artist

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**Nath (hunting platform)**

2015

bamboo, rope & natural fibres

Courtesy of the artist

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**Sesere (Bu shell)**

2015

fibreglass

Courtesy of the artist

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**Umay (dog masks)**

2014/2015

fibreglass, pearlshell and cassowary feathers

Courtesy of the artist

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**Lagalayg (face)**

2015

fibreglass

Courtesy of the artist
Poenipaniya (Masks)
2015
fibreglass, natural fibres, beads, resin, rope & feathers
Courtesy of the artist

Dhoeri
2015
feathers, twine
Courtesy of the artist

Gul (Canoe)
2015
fibreglass, cassowary feathers, natural fibres and rope
Courtesy of the artist

Mawa masks
2012
fibreglass, resin, fibre, beads, rope & feathers
Courtesy of the artist