

CAIRNS ART GALLERY

11 MARCH -
30 APRIL 2023

FRANCESCA ROSA *NOSTALGIA*

ARTWORK LABELS



This exhibition has been supported through a Cairns RSL Club
Artist Fellowship Award

Francesca ROSA

An Italian Woman 2022

giclee Print on Canvas, polyester lace

Courtesy of the artist

Relying on oral histories and archival records, this work highlights issues of displacement and isolation that reverberate through Italy-born migrant women and their generations. Sourced from her National Archives citizenship file, the portrait of my mother is obstructed to symbolise trauma she has experienced in her life. Veiled behind a layer of lace, the work questions the quality of her ageing experience as a non-English speaking woman in Australia, as she continues to struggle with feelings of grief, loneliness and regret.

Francesca ROSA

An Italian Wedding 2023

digital prints on organic canvas and polyester fabric

Courtesy of the artist

An *Italian Wedding* highlights issues of migrant displacement, isolation, widowhood and bereavement, experiences shared by many Italian women living away from home in post-World War II, Far North Queensland. Sourced from my parents original wedding ceremony photographed in Innisfail (1961), the sentimental and nostalgic images have been enlarged to emphasize intricate matrimonial traditions, yet are masked with fabric to symbolise a mourner's narrative and the Italian ritual of wearing black after loss. After becoming a widow, she immediately wore dark colours to symbolise and express her mourning; a cultural practice that perpetuates sorrow through clothing. Often gendered in Italians, women are expected to perform more of the grieving process and also appears more intense from other nationalities. Navigating between issues of migration, culture and trauma, the series questions the quality of my mother's ageing experience as a non-English speaking woman, as she continues to struggle with feelings of grief, loneliness and regret. It also subtly acknowledges the history of Australia's forgotten generation of 12000 Italian migrant brides, who married by proxy and then emigrated to meet for the first time, their Australian-based Italian husbands.

Francesca ROSA

An Italian Wedding #4

from the *An Italian Wedding* series 2023

digital print on organic canvas and polyester fabric

Courtesy of the artist

Francesca ROSA

An Italian Wedding #5

from the *An Italian Wedding* series 2023

digital print on organic canvas and polyester fabric

Courtesy of the artist

Francesca ROSA

An Italian Wedding #6

from the *An Italian Wedding* series 2023

digital print on organic canvas and polyester fabric

Courtesy of the artist

Francesca ROSA

An Italian Wedding #7

from the *An Italian Wedding* series 2023

digital print on organic canvas and polyester fabric

Courtesy of the artist

Francesca ROSA

An Italian Wedding #8

from the *An Italian Wedding* series 2023

digital print on organic canvas and polyester fabric

Courtesy of the artist

Francesca ROSA

An Italian Wedding #9

from the *An Italian Wedding* series 2023

digital print on organic canvas and polyester fabric

Courtesy of the artist

Francesca ROSA

An Italian Wedding #10

from the *An Italian Wedding* series 2023

digital print on organic canvas and polyester fabric

Courtesy of the artist

Francesca ROSA

An Italian Wedding #11

from the *An Italian Wedding* series 2023

digital print on organic canvas and polyester fabric

Courtesy of the artist

Francesca ROSA

An Italian Wedding #12

from the *An Italian Wedding* series 2023

digital print on organic canvas and polyester fabric

Courtesy of the artist

Francesca ROSA

An Italian Wedding #13

from the *An Italian Wedding* series 2023

digital print on organic canvas and polyester fabric

Courtesy of the artist

Francesca ROSA

An Italian Wedding #14

from the *An Italian Wedding* series 2023

digital print on organic canvas and polyester fabric

Courtesy of the artist

Francesca ROSA

An Italian Woman

from the ***An Italian Wedding*** series 2022

giclee print on canvas and polyester lace

Courtesy of the artist

Francesca ROSA

An Italian Wedding

from the ***An Italian Wedding*** series 2023

Wedding Certificates, Vintage Kodak photographic box,
Sepia Silver Gelatin photographs

Courtesy of the artist