

CAIRNS ART GALLERY

8 JUN –
1 SEP 2024

NAOMI HOBSON

LIFE ON THE RIVER

ARTWORK LABELS



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

Naomi HOBSON

Kaantju/Umpila

b. 1978

Nurture

2024

UV cured pigment ink on polyester

Courtesy of the artist, 2024

‘When I took this photograph, I was thinking about the future. I often think about what this Country or place will look like in the future. I see a father and his son enjoying this Country that their great-grandfather left behind for them. To me, place is about identity, we get to enjoy this place, here and now. Will it always be here? That is why the work is titled *Nurture*. What is our responsibility as First Nations people if it is all taken away? I took this photo to illustrate how important it is to nurture our environment. What has been left for us, and what are we leaving behind for future generations?’

Naomi Hobson

Swirl

2024

pigment print on archival cotton rag paper

Courtesy of the artist, 2024

‘Swirl is about the excitement and energy that is the river after the wet season. I see a lot of photographs of people floating in the water, but I wanted to capture the movement and fun associated with life on the river. Everyone knows this feeling. There is so much energy and movement when people engage with water. The subject is also a dancer, and it looks like he’s dancing in the water. The image is a celebration of the connection between people and water.’

Naomi Hobson

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Fragility

2024

pigment print on archival cotton rag paper

Courtesy of the artist, 2024

‘Life is fragile. I’ve always loved sharing the river environment with little creatures such as the one in this photo. The insects, bugs, flies, mosquitoes and grasshoppers – all these little creatures call the river home. It’s a shared space. I wanted to capture this connection and show that we can live in harmony with nature and its diversity of species. I think if it wasn’t for them, the river wouldn’t be as unique.’

Naomi Hobson

Delicate

Compassion I

Compassion II

Enlightened

Support

Gathering

2024

pigment print on archival cotton rag paper

Courtesy of the artist, 2024

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Kaantju/Umpila

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Still

2024

pigment print on archival cotton rag paper

Courtesy of the artist, 2024

‘Coen has one of the largest flying fox colonies in Cape York. There can be up to 500,000 of them at times on the river. They roost in the paperbark trees on the river behind the main street where they sleep. This photograph was taken at the back of my house. They fill the skies in the evenings when they leave to feed at night. When the young boys are home from boarding school, they like to get amongst them. The young people hunt them to take back to the Elders to eat. They are medicine food as they help heal a chest infection and head colds.’

Naomi Hobson

Replenish

2024

fabric wallpaper

Courtesy of the artist, 2024

Naomi HOBSON

Kaantju/Umpila

b. 1978

Guidance I

2024

fabric wallpaper

Guidance II

2024

pigment print on archival cotton rag paper

Courtesy of the artist, 2024

'I was intrigued by how curious the two brothers were in gathering dragonflies above the river. These insects had entered their space and guided them along the sand banks as they played. The rainbow bee-eaters started to swoop, taste the river water, and feed on the dragonflies. It was a spectacle for all.'

Naomi Hobson

Naomi HOBSON

Kaantju/Umpila

b. 1978

Comfort

2024

pigment print on archival cotton rag paper

Courtesy of the artist, 2024

‘This is my niece, Donna. She reminds me of myself when I was growing up. When I was younger, I used to take refuge in the river, it was a safe place, a place that provided comfort and solace. She wanted to get her photo taken by the flowering grasses. The flowers attract grass moths, which are in abundance this time of the year. She had her niece with her and was showing her all the moths in the grass. She is placed amongst these flowers to show that she, too, is a part of that beauty.’

Naomi Hobson