



2ND FLOOR
14 JUN – 7 SEP 2025

MELANIE HAVA

Marngaree – Where Stories, Spirits and Country Meet

Extending the success of her first solo exhibition in 2023, the Gallery presents a new exhibition of Melanie Hava's work to coincide with the 2025 Cairns Indigenous Art Fair. Hava was born in Mount Isa, Queensland in 1982 and currently lives and works in Cairns.

Explaining her exhibition title, Hava said,

Marngaree is a traditional Dyirbal word meaning 'place to be together'. It is the name my grandmother's family gave to Mungalli Falls—a place where our ancestors would gather, connect, and feel a deep sense of belonging. This exhibition reflects that spirit of home, of being together, and of returning to Country.

Hava's 2023 exhibition was titled *Bugan Mungan*, sharing the name of the sole work she presented: a nine-metre-wide painting that combines her grandmother's stories with direct observations of rainforest features and geography. Her new exhibition presents *Bugan Mungan* with the addition of two panels measuring five metres each, to form a triptych.

Melanie HAVA
Dugul-barra and Wari-barra
b. 1982, Mount Isa, Queensland
Bugan Mungan (detail) 2023
synthetic polymer paint, metallic watercolour, gold and silver leaf on paper
114 x 940 cm
Purchased Cairns Art Gallery, 2024
Photograph: Michael Marzik

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- Year-round savings with 10% discount on purchases at the Gallery Shop
- 20% Gallery Shop discount on special Member's Shopping days throughout the year
- Discounts and priority bookings on all children and adult creative learning programs and workshops
- Exclusive Members access to exhibition talks and events



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EVENTS & CLASSES

From exhibition openings and artist talks, to adults and kids art classes, there's plenty of ways to fill your calendar at Cairns Art Gallery.



View events & classes

VISIT US

CAIRNS ART GALLERY

Cnr Shields & Abbott St
P 07 4046 4800

Mon to Fri 9am – 5pm
Sat 10am – 5pm
Sun 10am – 2pm

- 🌐 cairnsartgallery.com.au
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IMAGE COVER
Christopher BASSI
Meriam, Yupungathi
b. 1990, Brisbane, Queensland
Untitled, Frangipani (detail) 2025
oil on canvas
Courtesy of the artist

WHAT'S ON

JUN – SEP 25



CAIRNS ART GALLERY



1ST FLOOR
10 JUN – 7 SEP 2025

CHRISTOPHER BASSI

Notes for a Palm Sermon

Christopher Bassi's latest exhibition brings together paintings, architectural elements, and bronze sculptures into a meditation on cultural heritage and connection to Country. Drawing from his Meriam and Yupungathi maternal ancestral roots, Bassi develops a visual language that navigates his relationship to the Torres Strait.

The exhibition title *Notes for a Palm Sermon* acknowledges both the religious traditions throughout the Torres Strait and the significance of oral transmission of knowledge across generations. His paintings collect iconic Torres Strait motifs—banana flowers, mangrove seed pods, frangipani blooms, mango and wongai fruit—rendered with exquisite detail. These emerge from velvety darkness in warm umbers and ochres, creating a sense of mystery and revelation.

Unlike European vanitas traditions focused on mortality and transience, Bassi's botanical subjects celebrate enduring cultural traditions. His works are both deeply personal and universally resonant—a testament to art's enduring power to transform how we understand connections to place, history, and each other.

Christopher BASSI
Meriam, Yupungathi
b. 1990, Brisbane, Queensland
Untitled, Wongai 2025
oil on canvas
Courtesy of the artist



Christopher Bassi, *Notes for a Palm Sermon* is supported by the Double R Arts Foundation.



1ST FLOOR
28 JUN – 14 SEP 2025

OUR STORIES

Contemporary Indigenous Weaving

Weaving is an ancient artform practiced throughout the globe. The styles, purposes and materiality of each woven form is influenced by the locality, the land and Country, of their creators. The artists in *Our Stories: Contemporary Indigenous Weaving* exemplify the connection of practice to place, demonstrating vastly different responses to the theme of 'my land' that reflect the diversity of their individual homelands and culture. From the red dirt of the central desert to the lush green rainforests and seasonal wetlands of Northern Queensland, to the islands and sea Country of the Torres Strait and Minjerribah, each work embodies the unique experiences, histories and stories of that Country.

The exhibition features works by Vanessa Cannon (Kuku Yalanji and Kuku Nyungkul), Sonja Carmichael (Ngugi), Shirley Macnamara (Indjalandji-Dhidhanu and Alyawarr), Ivy Minniecon (Kuku Yalanji, Kabi Kabi, Gooreng Gooreng and South Sea Islander), Paula Savage (Mualgal) and Philomena Yeatman (Gunggandji and Kuku Yalanji).

Philomena YEATMAN
Gunggandji
b. 1960, Cairns, Queensland
Mother's womb 2025
pandanus, lawyer cane, natural dyes
Courtesy of the artist
Photograph: Michael Marzik



2ND FLOOR
28 JUN – 14 SEP 2025

MALJAH CATHY SNOW

BARRLIN – Wet ground

In this exhibition Maljah Cathy Snow continues to share her people's culture and stories by extending her practice in new mediums. Her recent textile project, generously supported through the Double R Arts Foundation was realised in collaboration with textile designer Bobbie Ruben and is based on the translation of her signature motifs of flora such as waterlilies and seedpods, from paintings into designs on fabric.

The design skills required to achieve the seamless repeat-patterning of her new textile designs were at the heart of Snow and Ruben's collaboration. Both creatives combined their expertise in painting, designing and printing. Beyond this, Maljah's cultural knowledge of the life cycles she observes, those of her Country's creatures and plants, imbues these textiles with a traditional story-telling intent, yet freshly expressed.

Maljah Cathy SNOW
Gkuthaarn
b. 1954, Normanton, Queensland
Waterlilies I 2024
digital print on linen from original artwork
Courtesy of the artist
Commissioned by Cairns Art Gallery, 2025



Maljah Cathy Snow, *BARRLIN - Wet Ground* is supported by the Double R Arts Foundation.