



COURT HOUSE GALLERY  
7 FEB – 2 MAY 2026

## FLYING ARTS ALLIANCE Queensland Regional Art Awards 2025

Flying Arts Alliance is an arts and cultural development organisation which has been delivering visual arts projects and services to regional and remote Queensland since 1971.

The *Queensland Regional Art Awards* (QRAA) are Flying Arts Alliance's annual visual arts awards for established and emerging artists living in regional Queensland offering Australia's largest regional art awards prize pool. The 2025 finalists are exhibited in Brisbane and then toured around the state in 2026.

The theme for the 2025 QRAA is momentum. Continuous forward movement requires great balance. In keeping up with a fast-paced society, art provides a space of reflection and innovation. Critique and reflection through art and culture is what maintains the forward movement of our society.

Marisa Ballinger  
*Carry Our Light*  
Copper wire  
45 x 40 x 40 cm  
Eligible for First Nations Award and Art for Life Award.  
Toowoomba



MULGRAVE GALLERY  
7 FEB – 2 MAY 2026

## ZANNY BEGG These Stories Will Be Different

Curated by UNSW Galleries, *Zanny Begg These Stories Will be Different* brings together the artist's most significant video installations, including *City of Ladies* (with Elise McLeod, 2017), *The Beehive* (2018) and *Stories of Kannagi* (2019).

Born in 1972 in Melbourne and now living in Bulli, on Dharawal land on the south coast of New South Wales, Zanny Begg is an award-winning artist and filmmaker whose work has been exhibited widely in Australia. Her practice incorporates film, drawing and installation and is interested in exploring contested histories.

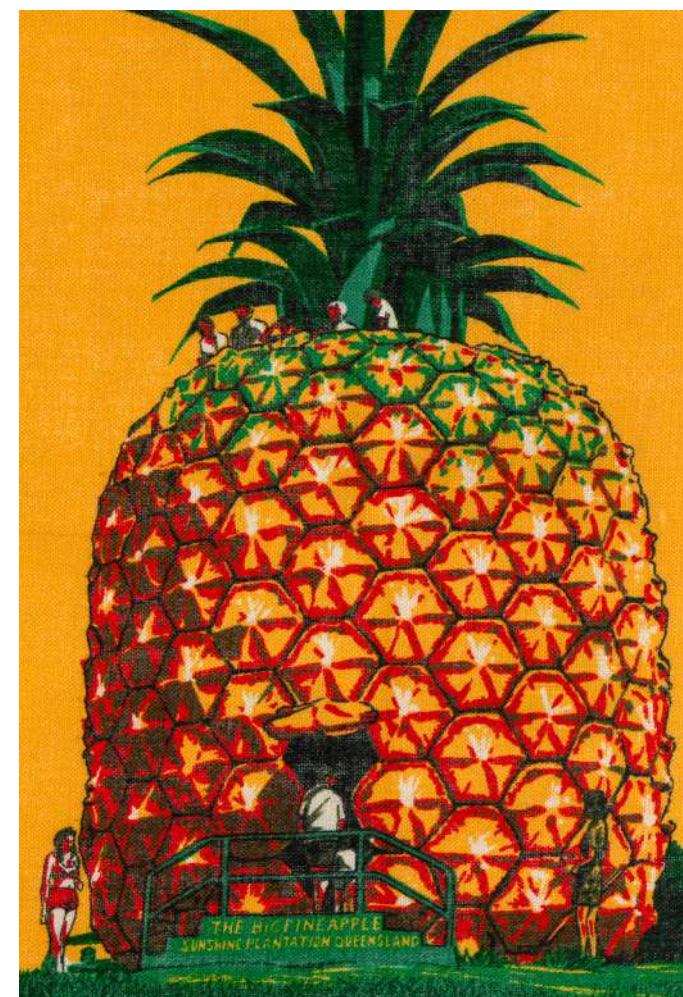
*These Stories Will be Different* brings together a fascinating series of works that reimagine a medieval feminist utopia, probe the unsolved murder of a high-profile anti-gentrification campaigner and explore the connections between love, loss, and language in migrant communities in Australia. The videos tell stories, but they also challenge the conventions of storytelling. Begg's work invites you to see the world differently by drawing on ancient literary traditions, non-linear timeframes, and computer-generated randomisation.

Zanny Begg  
*Stories of Kannagi* (still) 2019  
Single-channel digital video  
Image courtesy of the artist

COVER IMAGE  
*The Big Pineapple: Sunshine Plantation* (detail)  
Unknown Creator  
76.5 x 49.8 cm  
Glenn R. Cooke Souvenir Textiles Collection  
Item no. 320  
John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

# WHAT'S ON

JAN –  
MAR 26



CAIRNS ART GALLERY  
PRECINCT

COURT HOUSE GALLERY  
38 Abbott St  
Mon to Fri 9.30am – 5pm  
Sat 10am – 5pm

MULGRAVE GALLERY  
51 Esplanade  
Mon to Fri 9.30am – 5pm  
Sat 10am – 5pm

CAIRNS ART GALLERY  
38 Abbott St  
Mon to Fri 9am – 5pm  
Sat 10am – 5pm  
Sun 10am – 2pm

07 4046 4800  
cairnsartgallery.com.au  
Cairns.Art.Gallery  
@cairnsartgallery





CAIRNS ART GALLERY  
GROUND FLOOR  
30 JAN – 8 MAR 2026

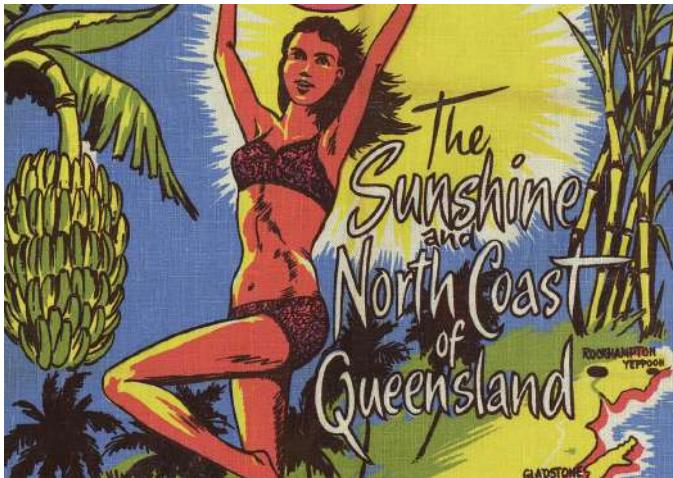
## CAIRNS ART SOCIETY 78th Annual Art Exhibition

Cairns Art Society is one of the region's oldest and most respected community arts organisations, maintaining a proud and enduring legacy of fostering creativity in Far North Queensland. In 2026, the Society celebrates an impressive milestone — the *78th Annual Art Exhibition*, a much-anticipated showcase that highlights the diverse talents of its member artists. This event has long been a cornerstone of the local arts calendar, drawing audiences from across the region.

1ST FLOOR  
30 JAN – 8 MAR 2026

## PANORAMA Collection in Focus

Romantic panoramas were intended to evoke feelings of wonder before nature's complexity. This exhibition features panoramic works from the Cairns Art Gallery Collection.



CAIRNS ART GALLERY  
1ST FLOOR  
UNTIL 8 MAR 2026

## QUEENSLAND TO A T Our Stories Told Through Tea Towels

*Queensland to a T* presents snapshots of history through the tea towels of the Sunshine State and examines how we see these functional souvenirs now, decades on from their tourist-oriented beginnings and the qualities that made them desirable mementoes during the second half of the twentieth century.

The origin of the collection is fascinating in itself. More than 1,500 souvenir textiles were acquired from the late Glenn R Cooke, a social historian, curator, and collector. He claimed, 'For me, collecting is about learning and these tea towels help tell the social history of the state and explain how Queenslanders saw their local communities.'

Important for advertising promotions of the region, tea towels with a Far North Queensland focus were bought as souvenirs to remember a special holiday, particularly one visiting the 'reef and rainforest'. These were gifts after returning home or were kept for nostalgic memories. They often show quite a different Queensland to the one we live in now!



CAIRNS ART GALLERY  
2ND FLOOR  
UNTIL 15 MAR 2026

## HEATHER WUNJARRA KOOWOOTHAA Collection in Focus

Heather Wunjarra Koowootha was born in 1966 in Cairns and grew up in Yarrabah. This exhibition brings together two series of watercolour paintings by Koowootha drawn from traditional ecological knowledge of plants and marine life passed down to her from her mother (Yidinji peoples, Yarrabah) and father (Wik-Mungkan peoples, Aurukun).

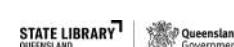
In 2019 Koowootha produced sixteen botanical works for the 2021 *Ritual* exhibition that explored the nutritional, material and magical properties of local flora used for food, healing and the production of hunting and gathering and ceremonial objects. In particular, the illustrations carry important knowledge associated with the medicinal and ritual uses of plants in birth, women's business, marriage, death and other important cultural ceremonies.

These works are now held in the Gallery Collection, and in 2023 the Gallery, supported by Double R Arts Foundation commissioned Koowootha to produce a further twelve works that expanded into series to incorporate the local marine life used for food and healing practices by the Yidinji and Wik Mungkan peoples.

Gail Shaw  
*Cairns Taxis* (detail) 2023  
50 x 50 cm  
Mixed media on board  
Winner of the 2025 Judy Noller Award



*The Sunshine and North Coast of Queensland* (detail) 1950s  
Summit Souvenir  
81.4 x 51.7 cm  
Glenn R Cooke Souvenir Textiles Collection. Item no. 14443  
John Oxley Library  
State Library of Queensland Collection



Heather Wunjarra KOOWOOTHAA  
Wik Mungkan, Djabuguy/Yidinji  
b.1966, Yarrabah, Queensland  
*Chull, Kye Soup Shell* (detail) 2023-24  
watercolour and pen on paper  
76 x 56 cm  
Purchased Cairns Art Gallery with the assistance of the Double R Arts Foundation, 2025. Commissioned by Cairns Art Gallery

Heather Wunjarra Koowootha is supported through the Double R Arts Foundation.

