

CAIRNS
ART
GALLERY

31 JAN –
6 APR 2025

PANORAMA

COLLECTION IN FOCUS

ARTWORK LABELS

Danie MELLOR

b.1971, Mackay, Queensland
Ngadjon-jii/Mamu

Bala dulga yubanday

2014

mixed media on paper mounted onto aluminium

Cairns Art Gallery Collection. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by Kelly Salteri, 2018

“This large image is part of an ongoing series of works that examine the nature of ceremony within the landscape, and looks also at the everyday or quotidian activities that form part of daily life in rainforest environments. *Bala dulga yubanday* can be translated as ‘in the middle of the rainforest where life [spirit] comes from’ and indicates the importance of connection with environment and ecology. It suggests a knowledge system is being applied that relates to deep understandings of seasonal cycles and an awareness of one’s place in the environment and nature”.

– Danie Mellor, from artist statement, 2014

Danie MELLOR

b.1971, Mackay, Queensland
Ngadjon-jii/Mamu

The cutting

2021

synthetic polymer paint on hardboard with gesso and iridescent wash

Cairns Art Gallery Collection. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by Danie Mellor, 2025

"The Cutting is based on a historic photograph of the railway pass near Robb's Monument (Mayula) whose pair was broken during construction of the Cairns to Kuranda railway. According to stories, it was a male/female pair of stones.

During my research of the rail construction from Cairns I discovered there were plans to lay track through to Herberton, however it was abandoned as too expensive and too difficult, hence its conclusion at Kuranda.

It was interesting to me as my Aboriginal great-great Grandmother spent some of her childhood and early teenage years in Herberton amongst other places before moving to Cairns. The railway had always struck me as a kind of industrial rainbow serpent in the way it snaked through the landscape".

– Danie Mellor, from artist statement, 2025

Anneke SILVER

b.1937, Holland, Netherlands

Bartle Frere and friends (Air)

2003/2004

mixed media on canvas

Cairns Art Gallery Collection. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by Anneke Silver, 2004

“Bartle Frere has lived in my imagination long before I attempted to paint it. Through lived experience—traveling beside it, walking its waterways, and sharing music in its shadow—the mountain formed a personal mythology that blends memory, landscape, and awe. It is both a physical presence and an idea: a generator of rain, rivers, and renewal, giving and taking through cycles of flood and regrowth.

I chose to depict Bartle Frere across multiple canvases, allowing each panel to function as a discrete work while collectively evoking the paced perception of scanning a vast horizon. The spaces between panels echo the way the mountain reveals itself over time. More than a single peak, the work acknowledges the surrounding ranges and the quiet power they hold together. Ultimately, this work is an attempt to express an intangible force—remote yet familiar—an ancient presence rising at the edge of consciousness, monumental and quietly divine”.

– Anneke Silver, artist statement, 2024