



COURT HOUSE BUILDING

27 Jun–
22 Aug 2026

SAM HARRISON

Kin'O'Centrism

For Wiradjuri/Kamilaroi artist Sam Harrison, the question of selfhood exacts a collective answer. It is a question that concerns the entanglement of the self not simply with others, but with the world, and indeed existence.

In *Kin'O'Centrism*, Harrison proposes an Indigenous cosmological model of kinship, where relations unfold across the human, animal, botanical, celestial, and spiritual worlds—and beyond. It is a model grounded in non-linear time; time is cyclic and immemorial. Kinship, then, is not something that simply happens across time, but deeply with, and within, time. Harrison foregrounds Indigenous understandings of time, where the past, present, and future ceaselessly commingle.

For Harrison, the individual never stands separately from others; they are inescapably relational. To be kin'o'centric, then, is to recognise that 'we' takes in people, ancestors, Country, animals, plants, the stars, and all of life itself. It also is to understand that our relationality is never fixed but continuously tested and negotiated.

Sam HARRISON
Moon Crossing 2026,
laser cut wood light box
and acrylic paint
60 x 52 x 7cm
Edition of 10
Courtesy of the artist
and Onespace
Image: Louis Lim



Resonance Major Art Commissioning Project is a collaborative initiative delivered in partnership between Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) and Blaklash, presented by Cairns Art Gallery and supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland. Sam Harrison is represented by Onespace.



MULGRAVE BUILDING

6 Jun –
12 Sep 2026

SPIRITS IN THE INK

Spirits in the Ink showcases the extensive archive of Djumbunji Press Kick Arts Fine Art Printmaking, a hub for printmaking by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Far North Queensland, that was active from 2009 to 2014. Shown alongside selected works from the Cairns Art Gallery Collection and selected loans, the works in this exhibition showcase the rich and diverse cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists in the region, expressing their strong and vast cultural connection to Country. The exhibition has been developed in partnership with NorthSite Contemporary Arts in Gimuy/Cairns and City of Moreton Bay Galleries.

Joel SAM
Kala Kawau Ya
b. 1977, Waiben
Marrkai Gub (Cyclone Larry) 2011
linocut printed in black ink from one block.
ed. 8/30
Courtesy of the artist and NorthSite
Contemporary Arts. Published by Djumbunji
Press Kick Arts Fine Art Printmaking



Spirits in the Ink is a collaborative exhibition between City of Moreton Bay and NorthSite Contemporary Arts. Curated by Aven Noah Jr

CAIRNS ART GALLERY

☎ 07 4046 4800
🌐 cairnsartgallery.com.au
📘 Cairns.Art.Gallery
📍 @cairnsartgallery

GALLERY SPONSORS



Cairns Art Gallery is proudly supported by Cairns Regional Council

CAIRNS
ART
GALLERY

Jun–Sep
2026

what's
on





PUBLIC CURATORS
BUILDING

27 Jun –
4 Oct 2026

BRUSH Women Painters

Brush: Women Painters brings together the work of eight trailblazing women: Mirdidingkingathi Juwarnda Sally Gabori, Birrmuyingathi Maali Netta Loogatha, Thundiyingathi Bijarrp May Moodoonuthi, Naomi Hobson, Rosella Namok, Samantha Hobson, Mavis Ngallametta, and Janet Koongotema, each of whom has carved a unique position within the landscape of Australian painting. Since the mid-1990s to mid-2000s, these artists have created works that speak to a profound cultural and spiritual knowledge of landscape, seasonal patterns, and sacred story places, while simultaneously presenting the realities of Indigenous community life.

The artists in this exhibition are defined not by longstanding painting traditions, but by shared geographical conditions, lived experience, and histories of displacement and adaptation. By presenting these women in dialogue for the first time, the exhibition seeks to unpack their individual yet interconnected stories, while exploring their shared creative output and innovation in colour, technique, and style.

– Curated by Shonae Hobson

Janet KOONGOTEMA
Wuk-Mungkan
Moun-aw – Archer River story place 2024
synthetic polymer paint on linen
150 x 151cm
Cairns Art Gallery Collection.
Purchased Cairns Art Gallery, 2026



COURT HOUSE
BUILDING

18 May –
22 Aug 2026

WOVEN TOGETHER: UNDIVIDED WE RISE

Woven Together: Undivided We Rise is a powerful celebration of resilience, community, and cultural continuity. The exhibition honours the trust of exhibiting artists Kim Ah Sam, Clare Jaque Vasquez, Jaeda Lenoy, Erica Muriata, Aunty Rosalind Sailor and Michona Warrria, collaborating with Gangulu woman and curator Sabrina-Rose Toby. Together they share intergenerational stories through the transformative practice of weaving. Bringing together individual weavings alongside a collaborative woven installation, each fibre is a vessel of memory, healing, and strength.

Through collaborative spirit and deep cultural knowledge, these works weave together past and present, pain and hope.

Commissioned by Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts in partnership with the North Australian Festival of Arts, supporting the voices of the curator and artists, this exhibition collectively offers a space where legacy, connection, and future vision are intricately interlaced.

– Curated by Sabrina-Rose Toby

Michona WARRRIA
Kuku-Yalanji, Waanji, Kalkadoon and
Torres Strait Island (Mabuig Island)
b. 1998
Unceded 2025
raffia, emu feathers and beads
58 x 48 x 2cm
Private collection
Photograph: Amanda Galea



Woven Together: Undivided We Rise is an Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts (Umbrella) exhibition. It was commissioned by Umbrella in partnership with the North Australian Festival of Arts (NAFA). Umbrella and NAFA are thankful for the support of Vivien Anderson Gallery representing Clare Jaque Vasquez, Kim Ah Sam and Erica Muriata, and Giringun Aboriginal Art Centre also representing Erica Muriata.



COURT HOUSE
BUILDING

27 Jun –
22 Aug 2026

PHILOMENA YEATMAN Babim, Muudjum, Djanguul

Philomena Yeatman is a proud Gunggandji woman from Yarrabah, celebrated as a master weaver and cultural custodian. She learned traditional knowledge from her grandmother, creating baskets and mats from natural materials like pandanus and cabbage palm, using dyes sourced from her Country.

The works of *Babim, Muudjum, Djanguul* (Grandmother, Mother, Daughter) are suggestive of maternal ties and interconnected womb forms, linked by threads representing the umbilical cord and the sacred transmission of cultural knowledge, tradition, and love. The thread is more than a physical connection; it embodies the way Yeatman's grandmother shared her weaving practice across generations, continuing a legacy of artistry and cultural strength.

Yeatman's works draw inspiration from the traditional forms used by her ancestors to carry food from the sea and rainforest, blending cultural heritage with contemporary art contexts in a celebration of the enduring ties that bind individuals and community.

Philomena YEATMAN
Gunggandji
b. 1960, Cairns, Queensland
Mother's womb 2025
pandanus, lawyer cane, natural dyes
170 x 170 x 52cm
Cairns Art Gallery Collection.
Purchased Cairns Art Gallery, 2025
Photograph: Michael Marzik



Philomena Yeatman: *Babim, Muudjum, Djanguul* has been supported through the Cairns RSL Club Artist Fellowship Awards