



Flora and Fauna, Giara: White Cockatoo (My Daughter) 1/3 by Luther Cora

CATAPULT

A CIAF INDEPENDENT ARTIST PROGRAM

Queensland Indigenous Art Movement

The Cairns Indigenous Art Fair supports an authentic Queensland Indigenous Art Movement that celebrates a traditional and contemporary approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural expressions through stories, design elements, motifs, symbolism and imagery that is unique to Queensland.

Program Overview

CIAF has an ambitious and transformative four-year plan ensuring organizational programing growth of the Arts that promotes creative employment, economic participation, and high-quality arts experiences that realize social and economic outcomes for the Far North and across the state.

For the first time in its 15-year history, CIAF will officially launch a new professional development program called CATAPULT for independent artists aimed at providing new pathways and economic development to participants as well as boosting exhibitor numbers at future CIAF Art Fairs and Art Markets.

CATAPULT is a 2-part exhibition and professional development program for First Nations Artists, designed to create critical pathways for independent artists who do not have formal gallery representation and who are not already working with an Art Centre. This program provides participants with a unique opportunity to exhibit within an Art Fair context, expand their arts practice, and gain access to mentors and tailored experiences that align with their unique artistic interests and curiosities. CATAPULT will provide financial, mentoring and industry support for participants, which will contribute to advancing their creative and economic development along with networking with the broader Queensland First Nations arts sector, providing an even richer experience for artists, visitors, curators and collectors at the CIAF event. This program aims to foster artistic growth, cultural preservation, and community engagement along with funding support to develop and showcase new work for exhibition at CIAF and partnering venues each year. Artists, emerging, mid-career or established, who are not affiliated with an existing Art Centre and who do not have formal Gallery representation are invited to apply.

The CATAPULT Program is aligned with CIAF's strategic plan to extend the depth and reach of the event further into southern Queensland and more remote regions of the state, fostering new relationships with artists and engaging with new creative communities.

Program Objectives

1. Customised Learning: CATAPULT allows participants to customise their learning experience based on their individual areas of interest. Participants will have the flexibility to choose workshops, residencies, connect with educational institutions, gain access to collections and archives held in public libraries, museums, institutions and any other experiences that cater to their specific interests, whether it's visual arts, traditional crafts, storytelling, or other forms of expression.
2. Mentorship: Participating artists will be paired with an experienced mentor of their choice who aligns with their artistic interests. Each participant will be provided up to 10 hours with a mentor who will provide guidance, feedback, and support throughout the program.
3. Cultural Preservation: This program encourages the exploration and preservation of Indigenous cultural heritage and truth telling through art.
4. Community Projects and cultural exchange: Participants will have the opportunity to collaborate on community-based art projects to share their skills and cultural knowledge with their communities.
5. Funding Support: CIAF will cover the costs of flights accomodation and per diems (as required) for the professional development period and will provide an artist fee and freight assistance for the creation of a new body of work resulting from the participants individual professional development experience.
6. Exhibition Opportunity: CIAF is offering the opportunity to showcase participants work at our Art Fair in 2024 and beyond.
7. Career Advancement: This program will support participants in their pursuit of higher education, to gain gallery representation, sell their work, and expand their network.

Program Duration

The Professional Development program will run for a duration of 6-12 months, with opportunities for extension based on participant progress and community impact.

Part 1: CIAF Art Fair Showcase

Up to 10 artists will be selected through an EOI process to exhibit recent work for sale within the CIAF Art Fair. Works can be presented to fill a whole booth or booths can be shared by multiple artists.

Participating artists will be supported with an artist's fee, curatorial support for the selection and presentation of work, installation and labelling support, marketing & PR in the lead up to and during our event as well as freight assistance.

Part 2:

1 artist will be selected through an EOI process to undertake the full professional development package which includes:

Professional Development

- Mentorship, artistic development, and customised learning
- Networking opportunities, community exchange
- University or TAFE application support (if desired)

Development of new work for Art Fair Showcase

- Artist fee for the development of a body of work in response to the CIAF 2024 theme “Country Speaking”
- Opportunity to exhibit and sell this new work at CIAF or in a partner venue depending on the nature of the work.
- Potential for gallery representation and future exhibition opportunities

Eligibility Criteria

1. Applicants must 18 years of age or over to participate in this program.
2. Applicants must identify as First Nations artists and be of Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander descent.
3. Applicants must meet one of the following residency requirements: Reside in Queensland (QLD) at the time of application or have familial ties to Queensland, meaning they have family connections or ancestral links to Indigenous communities in Queensland
4. Applicants should not have current gallery or art centre representation. This program is specifically designed to support independent artists without formal representation.
5. The program is open to First Nations artists at any stage of their career, including emerging, mid-career, or established artists.
6. Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to the program, reach milestones and commit to a professional working environment whilst striving to achieve the best outcomes for their practice.
7. Applicants should demonstrate a commitment to Indigenous cultural, traditional and contemporary artistic expression, preservation and community engagement through their art practice.
8. Applicants must submit their applications by the specified deadline outlined in the program’s guidelines.
9. Accessibility: The program strives to be accessible and inclusive, ensuring that eligible artists have equal opportunities to apply and participate, including those with different abilities.

Opportunities for Participants

There are significant long-term benefits for artists taking part in this program. In order to continue its growth into a new phase, CIAF is seeking to support, and welcome emerging, mid-career and established independent artists to exhibit at the event in 2024 and beyond. Providing financial support is crucial to enabling these artists to attend and exhibit at CIAF, which they previously may not have been able

to do due to prohibitive costs. This opportunity will not only enhance the development of CIAF, but also Queensland's First Nations arts sector, and increase visitation to the event.

1. This program will allow CIAF to expand its reach and depth of exhibitors from 2024 onwards, contributing to more opportunities for independent artists to attend and exhibit at CIAF. Artists will be supported to grow their practice and network with industry professionals.
2. CATAPULT will significantly expand CIAF's existing program framework, making it more comprehensive and inclusive in its representation of artists. This initiative will introduce new offerings tailored for Collectors & Curators. The program, which has consistently grown in success each year, attracts representatives from private collections, prominent galleries, and institutions, both nationally and internationally. These distinguished individuals are invited to partake in a unique CIAF experience, contributing to the ongoing support and elevation of the event and the recognition of Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artists.
3. Collectors and Curators will have the privilege of an exclusive preview of the final commissioned works, thoughtfully curated by CIAF. This curation aims to foster opportunities for interaction and exposure between artists and program members, enhancing the overall experience for all involved.
4. Participants will be eligible for the highly anticipated CIAF Art Awards, a prize pool of over 60K which support the professional development of Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists exhibited within the Curated Exhibition/Art Fair space at CIAF.



Darren Blackman, Independent Artist Booth, 2023, Michael Marzik

EOI Process

A separate EOI will be released for each opportunity: 1. Art Fair Showcase and 2. Professional Development Program in September or early October each year. Both opportunities culminate in showcasing and selling new work at CIAF and/ or at CIAF partner venues. This is a competitive process which encourages applicants to submit their best work.

Potential partnerships

- Queensland Museum: Collections and Anthropology Museum and Gallery.
- QAGOMA: Indigenous Curators tour. Industry experience and networking
- State Archives: Research
- Queensland State Library: John Oxley exhibition space, research
- The Paint Factory Brisbane: Residency opportunities, Industry experience, exhibition space.
- NorthSite Contemporary Arts Cairns: Residency opportunities, Industry experience, exhibition space.
- Aboriginal Art Co. Brisbane: Residency opportunities, Industry experience, exhibition space.
- UAP: Industry research
- Griffith University: Education Opportunities. Intro to program and artist studios
- Tanks Art Centre Cairns: Residency, professional development, Industry experience, exhibition space
- TAFE QLD: Education Opportunities, exhibition space
- Flying Arts: Education, exhibition and professional development opportunities



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