

# Designers Brief

## CIAF Fashion Performance 2022

***Masters of Country: An artistic celebration of Queensland First Peoples' knowledge and resourcefulness of Indigenous plants and trees***

**Curated by Lynelle Flinders and choreographed by Hans Ahwang.**

**Date:** Thursday 2,00pm 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022 & 6.00pm & 8.30pm Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**Location:** Tanks Art Centre (Tank 3), 48 Collins Avenue, Edge Hill



Pormpuraaw Art and Culture Centre + [Simone Arnol](#)

### **Overview:**

The Cairns Indigenous Art Fair's Fashion Performance is a leading artistic platform where Indigenous culture is celebrated through art, fashion, modelling, dance and performance.

CIAF's inaugural Fashion Performance was launched in 2014 by Grace Lillian Lee and has become known for featuring a wide range of Indigenous artists and designers who are actively expressing themselves through fashion and textiles. The project creates a unique space for a wide array of creatives to come together collaboratively from dance, music and art in order to present a contemporary fashion performance that has gained National and International recognition from as far as Vogue Japan to Lifestyle Vogue Australia.

In addition to their curatorial duties, the creative team will also be working with successful applicants to ensure that their collection is showcased at the highest possible level. CIAF is looking for unique techniques and textures whilst highlighting these pieces through adornment, presentation and performance.

The aim of the CIAF Fashion Performance is to bring together contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fine art with high end fashion through innovative and professional catwalk performances. With the purpose to promote contemporary Indigenous design and to empower Indigenous youth through mentorship, modelling and movement skills, whilst strengthening their cultural connection to Country and family. CIAF creates an opportunity for designers and models to collaborate with creatives throughout the presentation and production process.

As the number of collections presented at CIAF's Fashion Performance is limited to 10, curatorial selection can be a competitive process. Please provide five strong images to visually document your collection and a short collection statement, outlining the concept and ideas behind the collection.

## **FASHION BRIEF**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have used plants for nutrition, medicine, adornment and technology (such as traps, nets and weapons) for generations. This knowledge has enabled our people to be resilient on Country and maintain our standing as the oldest living culture in the world.

The application of knowledge to create is an integral part of our heritage through intergenerational and wider cultural sharing. Cultural knowledge is also essential to sustainable development.

First Peoples' knowledge is the foundation that designers can draw from to inspire new fashion collections, textiles and adornments to express culture, Country, plants and trees.

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### **Points to consider in developing your designs & overall collection:**

An artistic response to our “knowledge and resourcefulness of Indigenous plants and trees”

- Designers are encouraged to experiment with natural materials, such as ochre, plant dyes, wood, leaves, feathers, shells etc.
- (Please adhere to cultural protocol: The use of local materials which come from places of significance in the creation of art and artefacts, can only be used by mob from that ‘Country’ unless permission is sought from Traditional Custodians.)
- Create a concept from your own knowledge of a particular plant or tree.
- Do you have a particular story that centres around a plant or tree that you can convey from your lived experience or through oral history?
- Show how our people have utilised a plant or tree for medicine, utensils, shelter, watercraft, or healthy eating.
- What is your Plant or Tree Story?
- You may want to use natural materials like plant dyes, bark, wood, bamboo, seeds for creating new work.

Designers are not expected to disclose secret sacred knowledge- the theme is to be used as inspiration; designers are invited to share only what is culturally appropriate.

### **CURATOR:**

**Lynelle Flinders** is a descendant of the Dharrba Warra Clan from the Starke River area north of Cooktown. In 2010, Lynelle enrolled at TAFE in Cairns in Cert III in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Cultural Arts course. She then went on to complete Cert III in Micro Business & the Certificate IV in TAE (Training and Assessment) and graduated with her Diploma in Indigenous Visual Arts in 2012. Lynelle's current practice is as a textile designer and artist, her works concentrate on hand printed textiles using various tradition and alternative materials with natural dyes, relief and screen printing, hand-cut paper techniques, patterns printed from natural materials. Lynelle has been involved with the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair Fashion Parade as a Designer since 2013.

***As a Designer, I have been a part of the Textile narrative at CIAF since it began in 2013. Along the way I have developed new skills and confidence in the way I design and have had occasions to attend Fashion shows such as Melbourne Fashion Festival and Sydney Fashion week.***

***I am thankful for opportunity to be part of this project and help elevate the talent of emerging Indigenous Designers. I consider this a privilege and an honor to be on this journey, I look forward to working with you.***

## **CHOREOGRAPHER**



### **BIOGRAPHY HANS AHWANG**

Hans originates from St Paul's Community Wug Village, Mua Island, one of the Torres Strait Islands.

He completed his studies at NAISDA Dance College and graduated with a diploma in Professional Dance and Performance in 2014.

Hans has combined his love of dance, fashion and culture into a multitude of roles and projects promoting Torres Strait culture and contemporary dance. He has performed in diverse environments including Indigenous communities, schools, workshops, festivals both locally and overseas.

He has performed with renowned dance companies such as Mirramu Dance Company, Gary Lang N.T Dance Company and Arpaka Dance Company. He was involved in the inauguration as a model as part of the 1st Australian Indigenous Fashion week held in Sydney in 2014 and chosen to represent Australia as one of the Indigenous models who took part in the Fiji Fashion Week 2015.

He has performed both locally and internationally at arts festivals including Womad, the 11th Pacific Arts Festival in the Solomon Islands, the Woodford Folk Festival and toured extensively in 2017/18 to the United States as part of the International Association of Blacks in Dance conference. His film and television credits include 'Wonderland', 'Redfern Now', 'Cleverman', 'Dance Academy, The Comeback' and the major motion picture 'Pacific Rim 2'. In 2016 he won NAIDOC Award 'Artist of the Year'.

Hans continues to blend his skills in dance, fashion, culture and education. As the Artistic Director for a number of projects for Far North Queensland with Phunktional dance theatre and youth projects based in Melbourne he recently developed, with other artists, a puppetry/dance show that was performed in Torres Straits schools and was a performer in the Intertwine fashion

performance, Festival 2018 part of the Commonwealth Games.

In 2018 Hans was on tour as a performer in the critically acclaimed show 'Wyniss' with Musica Viva Australia, performing in schools throughout NSW and Queensland.

Hans is a regular contributor and performer having appeared over many years at the Cairns Indigenous Arts Fair. Most recently he was appointed choreographer for Bulmba barra (messenger, yesterday, today and tomorrow) as part of the 10th year anniversary of the event.

Hans played an integral role in developing dance and movement for the models during the filming for the digital presentations of CIAF's Fashion Performance in 2020 & 2021.

Hans is passionate about sharing his culture, please feel free to make contact to discuss anything further.

***As someone who's been involved from the beginning as a model, dancer and choreographer it's always an honour to come together to showcase First Nations cultures of Queensland, as we keep the fire burning through song, dance, art and fashion.***

***Hans Ahwang***

