

CIAF CAIRNS INDIGENOUS ART FAIR

AUSTRALIA'S PREMIER INDIGENOUS ART FAIR

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B I R R I M B I D U L G U B A J A L
(SEA AND RAINFOREST DREAMING)



Thursday 3rd March 2016, 7pm

Showtime Events Centre
61 South Wharf Promenade, South Wharf
Melbourne

 **MELBOURNE 13**
FASHION FESTIVAL 13
FEBRUARY - MARCH 2016
CULTURAL PROGRAM

CIAF CAIRNS INDIGENOUS ART FAIR

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BIRIMBI DULGU BAJAL (Yidinji language for Sea and Rainforest Dreaming)

The Cairns Indigenous Art Fair respectfully acknowledges the First Peoples' and Traditional Country of the Kulin Nation.

We acknowledge that as visitors, we respect the Woiworung, Boon Wurrung, Djajawurrung, Tungurong and Wauthurung peoples' of today and honour their Elders, past and present.

The Cairns Indigenous Art Fair presents Birrimbi Dulgu Bajal, a wonderful addition to the 2016 Virgin Australia Melbourne Fashion Festival Cultural Program. An artistic blend of wearable art, fashion performance and visual narrative portraying the art and cultural expression of Tropical North Queensland's First Peoples'.

A concept created by designer/curator Grace Lillian Lee, Birrimbi Dulgu Bajal features twenty Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander models showcasing eleven Indigenous fashion collections. Featuring wearable art that incorporates felting techniques, beading, feathers and vibrant colours, reflecting the Great Barrier Reef's beauty, whilst natural fibres, stencils, hand dyed fabrics, and weaving combined with wood, is a response to the rainforest of Tropical North Queensland.

Choreographed by Fiona Wirrer-George, the unique fashion experience includes music by Torres Strait Islander Hip Hop artist Mau Power and Cairns based vocalist Deline Briscoe.

Birrimbi Dulgu Bajal is an art exhibition on a catwalk, where Indigenous art and cultural expression is presented through a fashion lens. With stylised hair and make-up, the models will present contemporary versions of cultural adornment, combined with music and movement to create a performance that reflects the distinct cultures of Queensland's First Peoples'.

CURATOR & CHOREOGRAPHER



Grace Lillian Lee
Curator

Grace Lillian Lee is a Curator and fashion designer from Cairns, Queensland.

An honours graduate from RMIT University, she works as a fashion performance curator, mentor and collaborator.

As a creator and innovator of fashion, Grace initiates bespoke designs. Practicing cultural craftsmanship in the creation of contemporary forms to inspire and inform her audiences. Grace collaborates with other artists and designers to explore innovation and technique in her presentations.

Grace's work encompasses co-creation with members of Australian Indigenous communities to help translate art into fashion and fashion accessories. She has worked with artists from Darnley Island in the Torres Straits, Mornington Island in the Gulf of Carpentaria and communities in Darwin, Cairns and Papua New Guinea to generate a platform and gateway for Indigenous design to take a contemporary role in the world of fashion.

Grace has showcased in San Francisco, New Zealand, Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra and PNG.



Fiona Wirrer-George
Choreographer

Fiona Wirrer-George is a freelance performer, actor, writer and choreographer and in this capacity is cultural advisor and mentor to Grace Lillian Lee for Birrimbi Dulgu Gajal. Descendant of the Mbaiwum/Trotj, Alngith/Liningithi Wikway nations of Western Cape York, she also has strong traditional ties to the Wik of Cape York through her maternal great-grandmother.

In 2002, Fiona represented Australia in Canada touring to Vancouver, Winnipeg and Toronto, as writer and performing artist, guest speaker and cultural educator. She toured Europe in the same capacity in 2005.

Fiona is the author of five books and three stage plays that showcased nationally and internationally. In 2003 her biography on her grandmother, titled *Whispers of this Wik Woman* won the National David Unaipon Award for Indigenous Writing; her memoir *Double Native* was released in 2012.

A graduate of James Cook University (B Ed), NAISDA Dance College (Diploma of Dance), Sydney, and Queensland University of Technology (Master in Education), she is currently pursuing a PhD.

THE BIRIMBI DULGU BAJAL DESIGNER COLLECTION

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TEHO ROPEYARN

teho@tehoropeyarn.com
www.tehoropeyarn.com

TEHO ROPEYARN DESIGNS® is a clothing and accessories label that produces Indigenous Australian themed products. TEHO ROPEYARN DESIGNS® presents, promotes, and celebrates Teho's contemporary bold art style as a printmaker from Injinoo in far northern Cape York Peninsular area, designed onto products for the everyday life of our customers, fans, friends, family and communities.



CYNTHIA VOGLER: PARADEESE

cvogler06@bigpond.com

Cynthia is a descendant from the Wakka Wakka people from south east Queensland. Born and raised in and around the southeast corner of Queensland. Cynthia moved to Cairns QLD in 1999, where she now lives. Cynthia studied many forms of art over the years, from textile arts, visual arts, ceramics and part time fashion studies. Her ideas, designs and inspiration mainly come from nature and the natural environment.



CDA BALAS DESIGNS

07 4788 6093
www.cda-balas.com

CDA Balas Designs was established in 2009 by husband and wife team Toby and Shannon Cedar. Proudly representing Toby's Eastern and Western Torres Strait Island heritage through their designs.



Grace Lillian Lee, Jetty Love
Kristen Fagan, photography by Carly K Photography

LYNELLE FLINDERS: SOWN IN TIME

sownintime@gmail.com

Lynelle is a descendant of the Dharrba Warra Clan from the Starke River area north of Cooktown. Lynelle graduated with her Diploma of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Cultural Arts in 2012. She experiments with textiles, digital art, painting, sketching, lino printing, etching and screen printing.

Lynelle's label is "Sown in Time", her prints are contemporary with a traditional or scriptural meaning. Her collection captures the beautiful colours of the reef and rainforest, depicting the wonderful array of fauna and flora of North Queensland.



YARRABAH ARTS & CULTURAL CENTRE

07 4056 9249
artcentremanager@yarrabah.qld.gov.au

Yarrabah Arts & Cultural Centre presents its debut collection using their beautiful hand printed fabrics. These formal and fun designs are wearable during the day and evening. Yarrabah Arts Centre aims to provide the wearer with simple yet tailored clothing in exciting vibrant colours.



THE BIRRIMBI DULGU BAJAL DESIGNER COLLECTION



WUJAL WUJAL

Bana Yirriji Art and Cultural Centre
07 4060 8333
art@wujalwujalcouncil.qld.gov.au

The Bana Yirriji Art and Cultural Centre, in the Wujal Wujal community, is located on the banks of the Bloomfield River, north of Cape Tribulation. The artists from Wujal Wujal represent three traditional clan groups, Yalanji, Nyungkul and Jalunji people. Their inspiration comes from the land that surrounds them, rainforests, waterfalls, mountains, rivers and the sea. A lot of their paintings are from cultural stories passed down to them from their families and Traditional Elders.



ERUB ART CENTRE: AILAN PASIN

0488 409 935
www.erubarts.com.au

The Shoreline Collection-Ged Nor (Home Reef) is inspired by the traditional dress of Torres Strait Island women, created from digitally printed silks with patterns and colours reflecting the beauty of the coral reefs that surround Erub Island. Designed and produced on Erub.



NICKEEMA WILLIAMS

nickeema.williams.art@outlook.com

In her first collection, this new Cairns designer features natural fibres, stencil printed and hand dyed fabrics in the creation of stunning, organic women's pieces. Nickeema is a well known artist whose work has become noticed on a national platform, her playful portraits and signature aesthetic is seen within her collection.



Darylyn Gibson, Yalanji Arts Centre
Photography by Jürgen Freund

THE BIRRIMBI DULGU BAJAL DESIGNER COLLECTION

GRACE LILLIAN LEE : JETTY LOVE

gracelillianlee design@gmail.com
www.gracelillianlee.com

Grace is a descendent of the Doolah family of Murray Island. She has reconnected with her lineage through her creative capacity of fashion, art and collaboration. Her collection Jetty Love is inspired by her love of the Great Barrier Reef. She has given a traditional weaving technique new life through the use of contemporary materials, creating her own prints and adornments she aims to produce a look of celebration and vibrancy.



YALANJI ARTS CENTRE: MADJA

07 4098 1305
www.yalanji.com.au/arts

Madja is the Kuku Yalanji language name for rainforest, and it is the connection the Yalanji artists feel for their environment that thematically underpins the textile designs created in this collection. Rainforest wood and natural fibre accessories accompany individual fabric prints and design of the garments. Designed and produced in Mossman, Queensland.



MORNINGTON ISLAND: MIART

07 4745 7063
www.morningtonisland.com.au

A collection of handmade silk, felt objects and clothing pieces, designed and produced on Mornington Island by artists of the Lardil, Kaladilt and Yngkoal mobs. The 'Melaa Thaldin' collection inspires connection to indigenous culture and country through hand-crafted wearable art. MI Art Designs, are redefining the boundaries of art and fashion.



SPECIAL THANKS

MODELS

Ebony A Doyle, Benita Williams, Yasmin Jean, Savannah Bond, Carleah Flinders, Tegan Ashleigh, Nancy Nona, Taeg Twist, Donna Busch, Sharman Williams, Georgia Ah Chin, Sherniel Sexton, Lydia Mahayla Amini, Lilly Rose, Geraldine Rainbow, Chelsea Bell, Rhondell Williams, Latisha, Hans David Ahwang, Trey Bingarape

HAIR AND MAKEUP

Salon XVI
Ben Martin

MUSIC

Mau Power
Deline Briscoe

PRODUCTION

Djaban-Slippery Eel Productions

VIDEOGRAPHY

Jana Koelmel

PHOTOGRAPHY

Kerry Trapnell, Lovegreen Photography, Shannon Brett, Jürgen Freund
Lynette Griffiths, Carly K Photography, Grace Lillian Lee

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