**BIRRIMBI DULGU BAJAL**
(SEA AND RAINFOREST DREAMING)

Thursday 3rd March 2016, 7pm
Showtime Events Centre
61 South Wharf Promenade, South Wharf
Melbourne
BIRRIMBI DULGU BAJAL
(Yidinji language for Sea and Rainforest Dreaming)

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.

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 is a freelance performer, actor, writer and choreographer and in this capacity is cultural advisor and mentor to Grace Lillian Lee for Birrimbi Dulgu Bajal. 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.
LYNELLE FLINDERS: SOWN IN TIME
sownintime@gmail.com
Lynelle is a descendant of the Dharbarra 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.

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.

TEHO ROPEYARN
teoh@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.

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.

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.

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.

TEHO ROPEYARN
teoh@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.

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.

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.

TEHO ROPEYARN
teoh@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.
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. MIArt 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, Taeq 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

Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) is supported by Arts Queensland through Backing Indigenous Arts, a program that aims to build a stronger, more sustainable and ethical Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts industry and through the Visual Arts and Crafts Strategy, an initiative of the Australian State and Territory Governments.

CONTACT US

ciaf.com.au    |    e: artfair@ciaf.com.au    |    t: +61 7 4050 7712

Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) is supported by Arts Queensland through Backing Indigenous Arts, a program that aims to build a stronger, more sustainable and ethical Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts industry and through the Visual Arts and Crafts Strategy, an initiative of the Australian State and Territory Governments.