



ART CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Ready to embrace your inner artist? Cairns Art Gallery offers a range of art classes and workshops for both adults and children. Our classes are taught by practising artists who will guide you on your creative journey, whilst maintaining a supportive and fun environment. All supplies and materials are included.

Adult art classes span from weekend classes, to multi-week courses in a range of mediums, including life drawing and soft pastels.

Children from 4 to 14 can enhance their art skills by enrolling on a six-week term time art course. Or they can add a little more fun to the school holidays with one of our one day art classes.

All of our classes book out quickly, so we recommend securing your spot as soon as possible. Sign up to our mailing list to keep up to date with our upcoming classes.



View our classes & workshops

BECOME A MEMBER

Share our vision by becoming a Gallery Member. Annual Membership benefits include:

- Year-round savings with 10% discount on purchases at the Gallery Shop
- 20% Gallery Shop discount on special Member's Shopping days throughout the year
- Discounts and priority bookings on all children and adult creative learning programs and workshops
- Exclusive Members access to exhibition talks and events



Become a member

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST



Sign up to our mailing list to keep up to date with our upcoming exhibitions, classes and events

VISIT US

CAIRNS ART GALLERY

Cnr Shields & Abbott St
P 07 4046 4800
Mon to Fri 9am – 5pm
Sat 10am – 5pm
Sun 10am – 2pm

- 🌐 cairnsartgallery.com.au
- 📘 Cairns.Art.Gallery
- 📸 @cairnsartgallery

IMAGE COVER
Em JENSEN
Thelma Plum (detail) 2025
National Photographic Portrait Prize 2025 Finalist
© Em Jensen

WHAT'S ON

NOV 25
– JAN 26



CAIRNS ART GALLERY



GROUND AND 1ST FLOOR
6 DEC 2025 – 25 JAN 2026

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT PRIZE 2025

A National Portrait Gallery Exhibition

Now in its 18th year, the National Photographic Portrait Prize supports and celebrates photographic portraiture in Australia. Each year the prize attracts thousands of entrants from emerging and established artistic talent across the country. In 2025, the judges – writer and broadcaster Benjamin Law, Senior Curator at the National Portrait Gallery Serena Bentley, and Leigh Robb, Curator of Contemporary Art at the Art Gallery of South Australia selected 48 finalists from a field of more than 1400 entries.

Naarm/Melbourne-based visual artist and documentary maker, Hoda Afshar's *Untitled #01* (from the series *Code Black/Riot*) 2024 won the major award, with the judges describing her work as 'a portrait of immense power, which creates an urgent conversation between viewer and subjects'.

Featuring famous faces and everyday Australians, the prize celebrates the vitality and diversity of photographic portraiture in Australia and invites us into the intimate world of a subject/artist relationship and provides a powerful visual record of the year, reflecting a particular time in Australian culture, both socially and artistically.

Sherry QUIAMBAO
Mother dreams on a stone (detail) 2024
National Photographic Portrait Prize 2025 Finalist
© Sherry Quiambao

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY



1ST FLOOR
13 DEC 2025 – 8 MAR 2026

QUEENSLAND TO A T

Our Stories Told Through Tea Towels

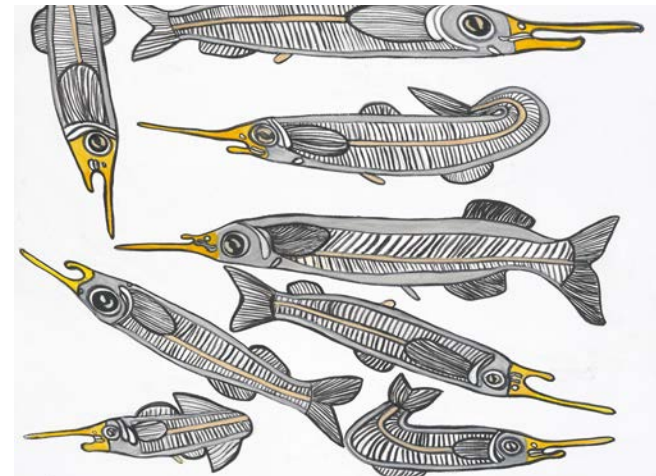
Queensland to a T presents snapshots of history through the tea towels of the Sunshine State and examines how we see these functional souvenirs now, decades on from their tourist-oriented beginnings and the qualities that made them desirable mementoes during the second half of the twentieth century.

The origin of the collection is fascinating in itself. More than 1,500 souvenir textiles were acquired from the late Glenn R Cooke, a social historian, curator, and collector. He claimed, 'For me, collecting is about learning and these tea towels help tell the social history of the state and explain how Queenslanders saw their local communities.'

Important for advertising promotions of the region, tea towels with a Far North Queensland focus were bought as souvenirs to remember a special holiday, particularly one visiting the 'reef and rainforest'. These were gifts after returning home or were kept for nostalgic memories. They often show quite a different Queensland to the one we live in now!

Gold Coast (detail)
Unknown Creator
Glenn R. Cooke Souvenir Textiles Collection
78 x 52.8 cm
item no: 464a
John Oxley Library
State Library of Queensland Collection

STATE LIBRARY
QUEENSLAND



2ND FLOOR
29 NOV 2025 – 15 MAR 2026

HEATHER WUNJARRA KOOWOOTH

Collection in Focus

Heather Wunjarra Koowootha was born in 1966 in Cairns and grew up in Yarrabah. This exhibition brings together two series of watercolour paintings by Koowootha drawn from traditional ecological knowledge of plants and marine life passed down to her from her mother (Yidinji peoples, Yarrabah) and father (Wik-Mungkan peoples, Aurukun).

In 2019 Koowootha produced sixteen botanical works for the 2021 *Ritual* exhibition that explored the nutritional, material and magical properties of local flora used for food, healing and the production of hunting and gathering and ceremonial objects. In particular, the illustrations carry important knowledge associated with the medicinal and ritual uses of plants in birth, women's business, marriage, death and other important cultural ceremonies.

These works are now held in the Gallery Collection, and in 2023 the Gallery, supported by Double R Arts Foundation commissioned Koowootha to produce a further twelve works that expanded into series to incorporate the local marine life used for food and healing practices by the Yidinji and Wik Mungkan peoples.

Heather Wunjarra KOOWOOTH
Wik Mungkan, Djabuguy/Yidinji
b.1966, Yarrabah, Queensland
Gar Fish (detail) 2024
watercolour and pen on paper
76 x 56cm
Purchased Cairns Art Gallery with the assistance of the Double R Arts Foundation, 2025, Commissioned by Cairns Art Gallery

Heather Wunjarra Koowootha is supported through the Double R Arts Foundation.

