

woolloomgatta art gallery



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Northern Mix

featuring Torres Strait artists
Billy Missi, Ben Hodges & Glen Mackie

14th August ~ 3rd October 2009

woolloomgabby art gallery

NORTHERN MIX

Woolloomgabby Art Gallery is proud to present a selection of artists from the Torres Strait Islands. Billy Missi is featured with two emerging artists from the region, Ben Hodges and Glen Mackie. This show aims to highlight the rich cultural history of Queensland's most northern islands.

BILLY MISSI

Billy Missi comes from 'Maluilgal' country in 'Zenadth Kes' (Western Torres Strait). He is apart of Wagedagam Tribe with major totem of Kodal (crocodile) and an associate member to Dhanghal (dugong) clan of Panai to the East and 'Kaigas' (shovel nose ray) clan of Geomu to the south on the Island of 'Mabuiag'.

Billy has grown up in the traditional customary ways and practices of his cultural heritage - Torres Strait where he comes from a well respected generation of art practitioners and geographers of Mabuiag who have passed down cultural protocols, practices, heritage and everyday life orally, through story telling, songs and dance.

His contribution to the Torres Strait Art industry is remarkable and has exhibited throughout the region, nationally and internationally where his work has been collected by prestigious international museums such as Victoria and Albert Museum (UK), Cambridge Museum of Anthropology (UK) and University of British Columbia (Canada).



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BEN HODGES

I have developed my art and design practice over the past decade and I am acknowledged in my community as an emerging artist who is versatile across a range of mediums which I use to explore my beliefs, cultural heritage and links to the natural environment. Growing up in mainly in the city, I possess a rich balance of cultural and urban influences and have been able to express this through the use of traditional motifs together with contemporary materials, technologies and imagery. The salt water air of my culture passes through my lungs and the bloodlines of my descendants run through my veins yet I restrict myself from painting traditional stories. I tell my stories from my individual experiences, struggles and triumphs as a son, grandson, brother, father, uncle, living in the urban surroundings of mainstream society.

GLEN MACKIE

I was born on Thursday Island in Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait). And raised on Iama (Yam Island), I'm the only known artist in my community that paints and tell stories about my culture. My father is from Iama and his totem is Kurrs (Hammer Head Shark), and my mother is from Masig (Yorke Island) and her totem is Kadal (Crocodile) therefore I inherit both totem that I signify and reflect within my art works. My art work also represent Mabuiag, Murray and Tudu (Warrior Island) because of my blood line goes back to these Islands. The meaning of my art work is to express my cultural history globally, so people will have a better understanding towards my rich island heritage.



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presents

Northern Mix

featuring Torres Strait artists

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Opening 6.30pm - 8.30pm

on Friday 14th of August

14th August ~ 3rd October 2009

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Woolloomgabby Art Gallery ~ 613 Stanley Street Woolloomgabby Q 4102

Wednesday to Saturday 11am - 6pm

Enquiries (07) 3891 5551 ~ email@wag.harryscollar.com ~ wag.harryscollar.com