

GhostNets Australia™



saltwater people working together

Ghost nets are fishing nets that are lost or abandoned at sea. They represent a major threat for marine fauna and an ongoing problem for indigenous saltwater communities across the top end of Australia. GhostNets Australia (GNA) works with indigenous ranger groups to retrieve the nets and to collect data on their type and location. The *Ghost Net Art Project* arose from the conundrum of what to do with the mountains of ghost net and other marine debris that indigenous rangers were retrieving from beaches along Australia's remote northern coastline. Commonly employed but not entirely satisfactory solutions were either to burn it or to bury it in landfill. Given the distances and remoteness involved economically viable recycling is seemingly not possible.

GNA's *Ghost Net Art Project* focuses on those communities that have been identified as 'ghost net hotspots', sponsoring workshops facilitated by contemporary fibre and environmental artists with a view to engaging community members to create art, craft and functional pieces made from ghost nets. The facilitators work with artists and weavers in the indigenous communities to develop new skills while encouraging the use of traditional techniques and themes using ghost net as an art material.

Indigenous artists who are involved in the program have been paid to participate in public workshops at exhibitions and festivals and opportunities for cultural exchange have also arisen, with artists from different communities attending workshops together.

CURRICULUM VITAE

GhostNets Australia

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

GhostNet Collaborations, June – August 2012, Cairns Regional Gallery
The Long Tide: Contemporary Ghost Net Art, April – June 2012 Artisan Gallery, Brisbane
GhostNets Australia, May – June 2011 Butter Factory Arts Centre, Cooroy

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2012 – 2014 *Life in Your Hands: Art from Solastalgia*, Regional Gallery national travelling exhibition
2012 *Float*, January – February, Wooloongabba Art Gallery, Brisbane
2011 *Land Sea and Sky: Contemporary Art of the Torres Strait Islands*, Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane
2011 *Baskets and Belonging*, British Museum, London
2010 *Before Time Today: Reinventing Tradition in Aurukun Aboriginal Art*, September – October
2010 *In the Balance: Art for a Changing World*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
2010 *The Women's Show*, Vivien Anderson Gallery Melbourne.
2009, 2010, 2011 *Cairns Indigenous Art Fair*, , Cairns
2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 *Gab Titui Art Awards*, , Gab Titui Arts and Cultural Centre, Thursday Island Torres Strait

FESTIVALS and PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

2011 *Garma Festival*, August, NT
2010 *Floating Land*, Sunshine Coast, Qld
2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 *Cairns Indigenous Art Fair*, Cairns
2009 *Idea's Festival*, Queensland State Library, Brisbane

AWARDS

2012 *Sustainable Ocean Innovation Award*
2012 *WWF Earth Hour Creative Arts Award*, Sydney Opera House.
2011 *Annual Queensland Multimedia Awards: Best Environmental Story*: Ghostnets Australia "The Young Man and the Ghost Net".

COLLECTIONS

2012 Parliament House Collection
2011 Qld Art Gallery, Brisbane, Qld
2011 British Museum, London
2011 University of Queensland, Brisbane, Qld
2010 Qld Art Gallery, Brisbane, Qld
2010 National Gallery, Canberra, ACT
2010 University of Queensland, Brisbane, Qld
2009 Rebecca Hossack, Private Collection, London

REVIEWS AND PUBLICATIONS

Artlink. National Arts Magazine. A GhostNet Story. June 2012.

Life in Your Hands: Art From Solastalgia. Lake Macquarie Regional Art Gallery. NSW. Catalogue. 2012

The Long Tide: Contemporary Ghost Net Art. Artisan Gallery, Brisbane, QLD. Catalogue. 2012

Northern Territory News – ‘Net Project Weaves Eco Drive’, 15th May 2012

Torres News – ‘Ghost nets weave their way to Horn’, 21st March 2012

Torres News – ‘Ghost nets takes Creative Art Award’ 18th April 2012

Gab Titui: Indigenous Art Award. Catalogues 2009, 2010. 2011

Baskets and Belongings: Indigenous Australian Histories, Lissant Bolton, British Museum Press 2011

Floating Land: Water Culture, Sunshine Coast Council, 2011

Craft Australia, A Ghost Nets Story, e-news, 2010

In the Balance: Art for a Changing World, Museum of Contemporary Art, 2010

The Courier Mail, In the Balance: Art for a Changing World at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Elizabeth Fortescue, August 24, 2010

Time Out, Sydney, In the Balance: Art for a Changing World, August 2010