

CIAF



CAIRNS
INDIGENOUS
ART FAIR

ANNUAL
REPORT
2024

**The Cairns Indigenous Art Fair
acknowledges the Traditional Owners
and Custodians of the lands, waters
and seas on which we work and
live, paying respect to Elders past,
present and emerging.**



Artwork: Tania Major and Noleen Cecil, *New Ghost*, 2024, Acrylic on Canvas.

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**Leading the growth of
First Nations arts and
culture in Queensland.**

PURPOSE

We provide platforms for deep community engagement, cultural sharing, social and economic opportunity and expansive growth for Queensland's First Nations arts and culture.

VISION

A strong, connected and vibrant First Nations arts and culture sector and industry in Queensland creating opportunities culturally, creatively, socially and economically across generations from our local and regional to our national and global communities.

VALUES

AUTHENTICITY

Create an ethical marketplace that will educate audiences through First Nations knowledge and control and personal engagement with the artists.

CONNECTION TO CULTURE AND COUNTRY

Critical for First Nations artists and communities for cultural maintenance and innovation and the development of diverse artistic practices for artistic and cultural expression.

LEGACY

Provide artists with opportunity to build their careers by showcasing new work and building connections and opportunities in the national and international arts sectors.

ETHICAL

Maintain an ethical business model that supports artists and their communities through selling works and other commercial outcomes and enabling financial return to artists and the viability and sustainability of CIAF.

VIBRANCY

Connecting a world-class marketplace and opportunities for cultural exchange, and collaboration that inspires locally, regionally, nationally and globally.

EQUITY

Promoting creative leadership by First Nations Peoples through employment, professional development, and community capacity building.

MESSAGE FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

As the 5th Artistic Director of CIAF, it has been an exhilarating transition from my previous role of four years as Curatorial Associate, where I had the privilege of collaborating with former Artistic Directors Janina Harding and Francoise Lane. I step into this role with a strong foundation laid by my predecessors, driven to elevate, strengthen, and guide the organisation into an exciting future as we head towards the 2032 Brisbane Olympics.

For me, CIAF represents a transformative platform, one that ignites fresh ideas, inspires creative innovation, and champions the growth of artists and their practices. It's about pushing boundaries, nurturing the next generation of CIAF talent, and asking, together, how do we continue to achieve this? What is the next big thing?

The 2024 CIAF program, *Country Speaking*, celebrated the organisation's 15th anniversary and was led by former Artistic Director Francoise Lane. The event continued CIAF's tradition as a powerful springboard for artists and cultural practitioners, highlighting the legacy and achievements of this unique platform. At a pivotal time in both the national and global economy, CIAF delivered a vibrant and far-reaching event, offering diverse experiences for our cherished local and national audiences. We sincerely thank you for showing up and supporting us!

In its final presentation at the Cairns Convention Centre, the Fair showcased more than 30 exhibitors, including art

centres, galleries, independent organisations, and artists supported through the CIAF Catapult Program—generously funded by the Queensland Arts Showcasing Program through Arts Queensland. This buzzing art market featured over 44 exhibitors from across the state, offering an eclectic mix of fine art, crafts, and unique products.

The CIAF Satellite program featured Urban BIAKtivation on Shields Street and exhibitions across venues such as Cairns Museum, Cairns Art Gallery, NorthSite Contemporary Arts, Courthouse Gallery, and the Bulmba-Ja Arts Centre, which also hosted CIAF's Symposium.

The Fair extended across Gimuy/Cairns City, with a host of activations and exhibitions including CIAF's signature exhibition, *Not Selling Cakes: Celebrating CIAF's 15th Anniversary*, held at the Tanks Arts Centre. This celebratory exhibition brought together artists—both living and spiritual—nominated by CIAF legacy leaders, showcasing works that have flourished through the CIAF platform.

CIAF's much anticipated Fashion Performance, a key program highlight, presented a stellar line up of Queensland First Nations designers and products in a moving trance that continues to exhilarate attendees and fashionistas with exciting new textiles and collections.

We were honoured to welcome international guests through the CIAF Intensive VIP Program, a partnership with Trade and Investment Queensland. This initiative brought collectors, gallerists, arts workers, curators, and institutional leaders from France, England, Germany, and China to the event. Additionally, the On Country VIP Program, hosted by Tony Albert, provided a unique experience for over 20 Australian guests, including curators, collectors, directors, and corporate leaders.

CIAF remains a trailblazer in Queensland's arts and cultural landscape and is the only First Nations event of its kind in Australia. As we face an ever-changing state, national, and global environment, CIAF is committed to adapting, evolving, and exploring new horizons. We invite passionate supporters, art collectors, sponsors, philanthropists, and corporate leaders to join us on this extraordinary journey.

The event is without its workforce, the huge efforts of the CIAF Board, Staff, contractors and volunteers, your unwavering commitment to realising the event each year and enthusiasm for arts and culture is truly the pillar for the road ahead.

We extend our gratitude to our funding bodies, partners, sponsors, stakeholders and supporters for continuing to believe in the platform and its social, economic and culturally enriching benefits it delivers for us all.



Teho Ropeyarn
CIAF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



MESSAGE FROM CHAIRPERSON

It is with confidence and pride that I present the 2024 Annual Report of the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF). Throughout the year, CIAF continued to strengthen its role as a leading Indigenous arts organisation, delivering high-quality cultural outcomes and long-term impact for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. In 2024, CIAF achieved strong audience participation and commercial outcomes across exhibitions, performances and ticketed events, while art sales and commissions continued to generate meaningful economic returns for artists and their communities. These outcomes reflect the Board's commitment to balancing cultural ambition with financial responsibility.

I extend my sincere thanks to the CIAF team for their professionalism, accountability and dedication throughout the year. Their creative efforts ensured the successful delivery of the 2024 program. I also acknowledge the artists, curators, performers, Elders and cultural leaders whose work and guidance continue to define CIAF's purpose and integrity. CIAF's progress in 2024 would not have been possible without the ongoing support of our funding partners, sponsors, donors and stakeholders. Your continued investment allows CIAF to operate with stability, pursue strategic growth opportunities and deliver lasting cultural, social and economic value.

As we look ahead, the Board remains focused on strengthening CIAF's financial resilience, expanding revenue-generating opportunities, and ensuring the organisation is well positioned to adapt to future challenges and opportunities. CIAF has a clear strategic direction to continue championing Indigenous art and culture while delivering sustainable outcomes for artists and communities into the future.

Bianca Beetson
CIAF CHAIRPERSON



PROGRAM & EVENTS

Shamaiah Sullivan modelling
for Delvine Cockatoo-Collins,
CIAF Fashion Performance:
Light the Fire, 2024.



2024 THEME

CIAF 2024 theme 'Country Speaking' provided an opportunity for Country to be heard. Since time immemorial, First Nation Peoples have lived in close relationship with Country. Country in turn speaks to its wellbeing; it can be heard in a whisper of the changing wind indicating the arrival of a new season, to the raging violence of rising tides reclaiming coastlines. Country speaks, always.

Changing climate is affecting human kind. It impacts the livelihoods of First Nations people from traditional food supply to encroaching tidal lines on Country. The constant voice of Country has been communicated continually. CIAF's 2024 theme will provide insight into what Country is speaking to its custodians. Country is always speaking; the question is, are we listening?

Country Speaking was the overarching theme connecting all aspects of the CIAF 2024 Program.

Country. Noun. (political unit) As an area of land that has its own government.

Country Noun. (natural land) Land that is not in towns, cities, or industrial areas and is either used for farming or left in its natural condition.

Country as a First Nations descriptor

Country in a western sense can be described an area of land that has its own government or land that is not in towns. Country with a capital 'C' as used by First Nations people embodies the deep connection to the land, waters, skies and seas within their Nation and Clans. It is also much more. It encompasses the spiritual, physical, emotional and mental relationship to Country. Country is inclusive of the living and breathing landscapes and the animals nourished by it. The ancient songlines of 65,000 years of ancestral connections deepen First Nation People's relationship with Country.

Speak. Verb.

1. To say words, to use the voice, or to have a conversation with someone



Roomview of Big Sculpture,
CIAF Touring Exhibition.
Commissioned through CIAF's -
Big Sculpture Showcase, 2022.
Funded by the Queensland
Government through Arts
Queensland as part of the Arts
and Cultural Recovery Package
- Spaces and Places.

ART FAIR

The 2024 CIAF Art Fair featured 775 artworks, with 220 sold through CIAF’s POS system. The fair hosted 28 booths, including 11 art centres (9 managed by CIAF POS, 2 independently), 6 independent galleries/artists, 2 commercial galleries, and 10 CATAPULT artists alongside 1 BLOOM artist.

Total art fair sales reached \$317,402.98, with significant contributions from both art centres and independent artists. Key highlights included:

- Art Centres (CIAF-managed booths): \$141,790 in sales
- Self-Managed Art Centres: \$17,038.98 in sales
- Independent Galleries & Artists: \$122,080 in sales
- VIP Walkthrough Sales: \$35,000
- Institutional Acquisitions: Art Bank (\$9,500 – Obery Sambo) Queensland Art Gallery (\$250), and private collectors contributing further acquisitions.

Despite the strength of this year’s curatorial vision and the compelling visual presentation across the Art Fair, overall sales and visitation were notably lower than in previous years. This downturn aligns with a broader trend observed at other major arts events nationally and internationally, as the current economic climate continues to impact discretionary spending, particularly among collectors, institutional buyers, and curators.

Exhibitors widely reported a decline in direct engagement from collectors and curators, resulting in lower acquisition rates and fewer commercial outcomes. While many praised the quality of the work and the curation of the Fair, the softer market conditions created challenges in converting interest into sales.

That said, media coverage of CIAF 2024 was extensive and positive, with strong representation of artists, stories, and the theme *Country Speaking* across national and regional platforms. This widespread exposure helped amplify artist voices and connect their work with broader audiences, contributing to long-term visibility and cultural impact beyond the event.

Joel Sam, Wamaladi Mawa, 2024, Mixed Media Sculpture, CIAF Art Fair Showcase, 2024. Photograph: Blueclick Photography.



ART AWARDS

The 2024 Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) Art Awards celebrated the theme 'Country Speaking', recognising the powerful ways in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists interpret and respond to Country as a living, speaking presence. The Awards are an important platform to support and elevate Queensland-based First Nations artists, providing recognition for artistic excellence, cultural leadership, and innovation.

Judging Panel

This year's judging panel brought together a wealth of cultural knowledge, curatorial expertise, and creative insight:

Peggy Lane – Cultural Practitioner and Arts Advocate

Kasabad Dennis Nun Ter – Artist and Community Leader

Dr Jilda Andrews – Curator and Cultural Researcher

The panel evaluated works based on their originality, cultural relevance, technical skill, and alignment with the 2024 theme.

Award Categories & Winners

Premier's Award for Excellence – \$25,000

Winner: Joel Sam

Journey from Saibai to Muttee Heads

A deeply moving work exploring intergenerational migration, resilience, and Country through the powerful symbolism of the canoe. Joel's storytelling collapses time, connecting histories and futures with grace and strength.

Art Centre Award – \$10,000

Winner: Yarrabah Arts Centre

Celebrated for its unified, collective presentation at CIAF 2024, the Centre's booth exemplified shared cultural knowledge and the strength of community through art.

Innovation Award – \$10,000

Winner: Matilda Nona

Recognised for her bold response to Country's whispers, Matilda's work captured powerful small moments with emotional intensity, reflecting the scale and vulnerability of Country.

3D Design, Sculpture & Installation Award – \$5,000

Winner: Tania Major

New Ghosts Lost on Country 1, 2, 3

Tanya's work explored spirituality and ancestral presence using sustainable materials, creating complex conversations around the contemporary and timeless power of Country.

Emerging Art Award (Acquisitive) – \$5,000

Winner: Salome Yeatman

Wirral Shells

A tactile and sensory celebration of labour, community, and connection to Country, honouring those who came before and those continuing the work.

The CIAF Art Awards continue to honour the voice of Country and amplify First Nations perspectives through dynamic and powerful creative expression.

Priscilla Major, Tania Major
and Noleen Cecil, CIAF Art Fair
Showcase 2024.



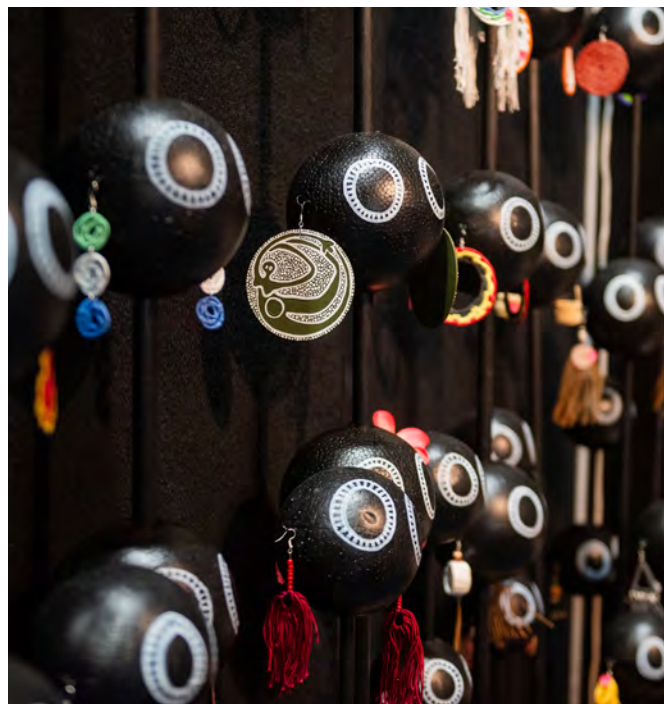
ART MARKET

The 2024 CIAF Art Market was a vibrant platform for independent artists, collectives, and art centres, featuring 44 exhibitors, including 11 industry participants. The market generated a total of \$171,949.94 in sales – a strong result that reflects growing demand for ethically sourced and authentically produced Queensland First Nations art.

Exhibitors represented a diverse range of mediums, styles, and cultural expressions. The following participants showcased their work at the Art Market:

Art of Melanie Hava | Australia.Gallery | Badu Art Centre | Bama Bandjil Bulurru | Bumma Bippa Media | Cairns Indigenous Art Fair | Creek Cottage Weaving | Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation | Delvene Cockatoo-Collins | Erub Arts | Gab Titui Cultural Centre | Gimuy Walubara Yidinji | Giringun Aboriginal Art Centre | Gumbeen and Girls | Hopevale Arts & Culture Centre | Hunter Gatherer Networks | I & Y's Wearable Material Culture | kellybarclay ART | Kgari 3 Sisters Arts | Lockhart River Arts | Moa Arts | Munganbana Reef and Rainforest Aboriginal Art | Native Creations Australia | Pormpuraaw Art & Cultural Centre Inc. | Salt Water Murris Quandamooka | Small Hands Big Heart | Thancoupie Bursary Fund | Wei'Num Arts & Crafts | WidiWorks Aboriginal Art Gallery | Yalanji Arts, Mossman Gorge | Yarrabah Arts & Cultural Precinct

1. Irene Robinson's handmade earrings. 2. Audiences amongst the CIAF 2024 Art Market. Photographs: Blueclick Photography.



CATAPULT

CATAPULT is an annual accelerator and showcase program which provides crucial pathways for independent Queensland First Nations artists.

This initiative provides professional development and exhibition opportunities, empowering artists without formal gallery representation or affiliation with Art Centre's to further their careers and connect with the broader art community.

The CATAPULT program supported 10 emerging and mid-career artists, providing them with complimentary booth space, artist fees, and logistical support. The program included a professional development stream, with Matilda Nona as the inaugural recipient and a showcase group featuring Arabella Walker, Melissa Stannard, Joel Sam, Robert Tommy Pau, Cathy Snow, Libby Harward, Obery Sambo, Delvene Cockatoo-Collins, and Tori-Jay Mordey, all who exhibited at CIAF 2024. Total sales from CATAPULT artists reached \$34,904, with CIAF earning \$10,471.20 in commissions.

Artists provided valuable feedback on the program, highlighting the need for:

- More networking opportunities at the start of the program
- Increased artist-to-artist engagement throughout the initiative
- Greater mental health support for participants
- A centralised event location to minimise confusion

- Expanded marketing efforts to increase public visibility
- More artist-led workshops and additional financial support for travel

Internally, CIAF recognised key challenges, including deadline management, contract awareness, and artist participation in professional development activities.

While 98% of submitted works were exhibited, some artists struggled with presentation methods or perceived inequities in booth space distribution. Managing a cohort of 10 artists was also resource-intensive, leading to a recommendation to support fewer artists in future iterations for better financial and curatorial support.

CIAF exceeded its original commitment to the artists by offering additional support, including a \$520 travel allowance, VIP networking opportunities, and extensive media exposure. While attendance at professional development seminars was low, participating artists demonstrated high levels of engagement, professionalism, and creative output, with two of them receiving CIAF Art Awards.

The CATAPULT program continues to provide an invaluable platform for emerging artists, and refinements in structure, funding, and support mechanisms will further enhance its impact in future years.



CATAPULT inaugural recipient, Matilda Nona with her CIAF Art Fair booth, 2024. Photograph: Blueclick Photography.

FASHION PERFORMANCE

In 2024, CIAF's Fashion Performance explored the overarching theme *Country Speaking* through the fashion-specific focus *Light the Fire*. Designers were invited to consider the cultural significance of fire—as knowledge, as healing, and as a voice of Country. Central to this was the practice of cultural burning: a land care method used by First Nations people for tens of thousands of years to nurture ecosystems, regenerate native flora, and maintain the health of Country and its people.

Twelve First Nations designers from Queensland presented new collections that embodied these concepts, including Irene Robinson, Lisa Lui, Girringun Art Centre, Felicity Chapman, Delvene Cockatoo-Collins, TAFE Queensland students, Lynelle Flinders, Nicole Chatfield, Elverina Johnson, Jedess Hudson, Robert Pau, and the Yarrabah Cultural Precinct. First-time designers this year were Lisa Lui, Girringun Art Centre and TAFE students, offering fresh interpretations of cultural strength and sustainability.

Sixteen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander models—two men and fourteen women—brought the runway to life, with eight making their debut. Their participation in the performance has since opened doors to further professional development and modelling opportunities, strengthening the pipeline of First Nations talent in the fashion industry.

The 2024 performance affirmed fashion as a platform for truth-telling and connection—where ancestral

knowledge, identity, and design converge to let Country speak.



This image: Shamaiah Sullivan and Amariah Thomas Savage modelling for designer Irene Robinson. Above: Jessica Meeks modelling for designer Nicole Chatfield. CIAF Fashion Performance: *Light the Fire*, 2024.





NOT SELLING CAKES

The Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) celebrated its 15th anniversary with a remarkable exhibition honouring First Nations Queensland artists and key cultural and industry leader's integral to the Fair's growth and success. This milestone event showcased the vibrant and diverse Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and culture in Queensland, Australia.

In 2006 the Queensland Government through the Queensland Indigenous Export Marketing Agency and Arts Queensland commissioned Positive Solutions in partnership with Brian Tucker Accounting to identify the needs of Queensland's Indigenous Art Centres in FNQ and the Torres Strait. The aim was to identify what was needed to achieve sustainable growth and to benchmark their operations with Art Centres in other parts of Australia. Queensland had lacked the sustained and long-term investment that had been provided federally to remote Art Centres particularly in the NT, WA and SA, yet the work of some Queensland First Nation artists such as Alick Tipoti, Arone Meeks and Billy Missi was beginning to be recognised on the national and international stage.

Cathy Hunt AM who led the team had such a clear memory of standing in the Kubin Print Studio on Ngalmun Lagau Minaral (Moa Arts) with the late Billy Missi and him saying – whatever you write, just tell them we are not selling cakes here – we

are printing money! It was a clear statement from one of Queensland's leading Torres Strait artists for Government to recognise the cultural social and economic value of the work being created and to invest in the sector for growth. And hence the name for the report and this anniversary exhibition.

The report identified the need for investment in all stages of the process of art making from early training and education for artists through to marketing and distribution, including the need for events shone a spotlight on the work coming from the Region. This led to a significant cross departmental investment in the Backing Indigenous Arts program including the first four years of CIAF from 2009.

The anniversary exhibition featured the works of 20 artists, with approximately 300 artists in the CIAF Art Fair, showcasing the unique talents, narratives, and cultural traditions of First Nations artists across Queensland. From traditional paintings and sculptures to contemporary installations, the exhibition highlighted the ancient living cultures of Queensland's First Nations communities.

Fifteen key cultural and industry leaders, collectors, academics, and curators nominated artists for this exhibition. CIAF honours those whose commitment was essential to its success and growth. The exhibition served as a powerful platform for First Nations artists to display their legacy works and reflects on the Fair's journey,

Roomview of Not Selling Cakes, CIAF 2024.



celebrating the past, present, and future of First Nations artistic expression. It honoured the artists' and communities' rise to recognition and prominence as respected and collectible artists.

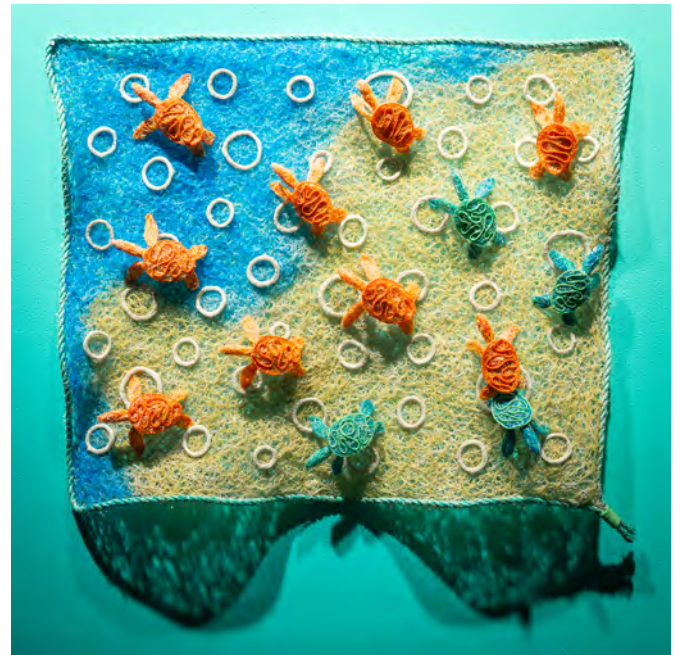
Recognitions and awards of exhibiting artists include Telstra NATSIAA winners and finalists, Brisbane Portrait Prize finalists, and Venice Biennale Australian representatives, Frieze, Sydney Biennale and Tarnanthi.

From humble beginnings in 2009 as an initiative of Arts Queensland, showcasing in Tank 4 and activated with workshops, performances, CIAF has evolved into a statewide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led arts and cultural celebration across multiple satellite venues. The introspective exhibition fittingly takes place where the flame was first ignited.

Looking forward, CIAF will continue to partner with organisations to present First Nations-led exhibitions, productions, and performances. CIAF is committed to supporting the enduring legacy of Indigenous art and the cultural diversity of First Nations communities across Queensland, fostering the next generation of Indigenous artists. Queensland's distinct First Nations arts and culture are to be treasured and celebrated, strengthening cultural tourism and economic value nationally and internationally.

Francoise Lane & Cathy Hunt AM

CIAF Artistic Director & Executive Director WOW Australia



Roomview of Not Selling Cakes, CIAF 2024.

BIG SCULPTURE

The Cairns Indigenous Art Fair's *Big Sculpture* touring exhibition was a captivating showcase, presenting the cultural talents of emerging and prominent artists. The exhibition offered an immersive visual journey through the diverse narratives woven by Indigenous artists, transcending boundaries and embracing a rich tapestry of perspectives.

At the heart of this exhibition were large-scale commissioned works that stood as testaments to their artists' profound connection to culture, land, and heritage. Through the masterful use of modern and repurposed materials, the sculptures not only reflected artistic prowess but also echoed a commitment to sustainability and innovation.

Viewers were invited to explore a kaleidoscope of stories, each sculpture telling a unique tale deeply rooted in Queensland's cultural landscape. The juxtaposition of traditional and contemporary elements allowed for a nuanced exploration of Indigenous identity and the evolution of artistic expression over time, highlighted by the resilience and creativity of Queensland's leading contemporary First Nations artists like Brian Robinson, Shirley Macnamara, Mavis Benjamin, Toby Cedar, Dr. David Jones, Alma Norman, Marlene Norman, Hans Ahwang, Ian Waldron, and Rhonda Woolla.

From the striking layering of Brian Robinson's work to the powerful narratives of Country conveyed by Shirley Macnamara's piece, the *Big Sculpture* touring exhibition delivered a thought-provoking and visually stunning experience, celebrating the richness of First Nations artistry in Queensland.

Visitors also had the opportunity to join *Big Sculpture* artist Toby Cedar in a seated movement workshop. Participants learned song and dance with Toby as they told a story about trading throughout Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait) in their canoes.

The exhibition toured to the Brisbane Powerhouse supported by Brisbane Festival and Logan Art Gallery. The final exhibition venue is the Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery where the exhibition will be presented from April to June in 2025.

Roomview of Big Sculpture.



Simone Arnol with her work 'Page 47 - Tindale Genealogical Collection' Clay, Wood. 220 x 90 x 40cm. CIAF 2024. Photograph: Michael Marzick. Commissioned through Cairns Indigenous Art Fair's - Big Sculpture Showcase, 2022. Funded by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland as part of the Arts and Cultural Recovery Package - Spaces and Places.

**"Journey through
ancestral stories with
each sculpture's curve."**

- Brisbane Powerhouse



URBAN BLAKTIVATION

BLAKtivation transformed the urban setting of Gimuy/Cairns CBD and cultural precinct during CIAF 2024, activating key public spaces with a vibrant and diverse program of First Nations arts and culture. Over three days, the pop-up event brought together storytellers, poets, musicians, and dance performers, creating a dynamic and immersive experience for locals, visitors, and regional First Nations creatives.

Installations across the city included 12 curated public artworks, custom-designed street banners, and a striking digital projection activation that illuminated five key sites. These works transformed everyday thoroughfares into powerful spaces of Blak cultural expression and storytelling, reaching a total audience of more than 1,000 people across the weekend.

Designed to strategically connect high-foot-traffic areas, *BLAKtivation* linked the Gimuy/Cairns cultural precinct with the pedestrian corridor leading to the Tanks Arts Centre. This pathway featured seven activations and engaged two major cultural precincts, boosting foot traffic and public engagement while increasing awareness of First Nations arts and perspectives.

The initiative also enhanced accessibility for both local and visiting audiences, while providing valuable opportunities for regional artists and creative practitioners. A total of 40 artists and cultural workers participated in *BLAKtivation*,

including 30 female artists and a project team that included 10 First Nations creatives, 10 people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds, and 10 people living with disability.

Audience participation and interaction was a key outcome, with over 150 people directly involved through workshops, live performances, and participatory experiences. Surveys and informal feedback indicated strong community support and positive impact, with many attendees citing the opportunity for cultural exchange as a highlight of the event.

As a result, *BLAKtivation* successfully expanded CIAF's cultural footprint within the region—connecting the tourism precinct with First Nations-led storytelling, performance, and community celebration. The program brought CIAF into the streets, creating unexpected moments of joy, truth-telling, and connection across the city.



Nathaniel Fourmile, DIDG
(Deaf Indigenous Dance Group)

COLLECTORS AND CURATORS PROGRAM

In 2024, CIAF renamed the *Collectors and Curators Program* to *CIAF On Country* (VIP Program), allowing moments to reset, connect, and be immersed in the art and culture, and Country in North Queensland.

The program has successfully elevated the careers of countless CIAF artists, designers and performers, transcending their career status to highly sought-after contributors to Australia's cultural fabric.

Participants were privy to the utmost of cultural output (including visitor and culinary experiences), insights and interactions with artists, and previews of exhibitions and works (such as the Art Fair and Art Market) – including buying advantages. The program fostered a holistic understanding of art as a cultural expression, taking participants directly to the artists, in their studios and/or on Country, where they also met with community-based cultural practitioners and lore-holders.

CIAF welcomed international guests through the 2024 CIAF Intensive VIP Program, a partnership with Trade and Investment Queensland hosted by Brian Robinson. This initiative brought collectors, gallerists, arts workers, curators, and institutional leaders from France, England, Germany, and China to the event. Additionally, the On Country VIP Program, hosted by Tony Albert, provided a unique experience for over 20 Australian guests, including curators, collectors, directors, and corporate leaders.

Tania Major, *They Are There Country Speaks*, 2024, Acrylic on Canvas.



ORGANISATIONAL OVERVIEW



*Philomena Yeatman,
Whispers Through Time,
2024, Glazed Ceramic.*

OUR PEOPLE

Patrons

The CIAF Patron First Nations is traditional owner Professor Henrietta Fourmile-Marrie, Gimuy Walubara Yidinji Traditional Owner.

The CIAF Patron is the Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency the Honourable Jeanette Young AC PSM.

Board

Dr Bianca Beetson (Chair)
Tarragah Cunningham
Shavi Kanagaratnam
Vicki Saylor
Leitha Assan

Staff

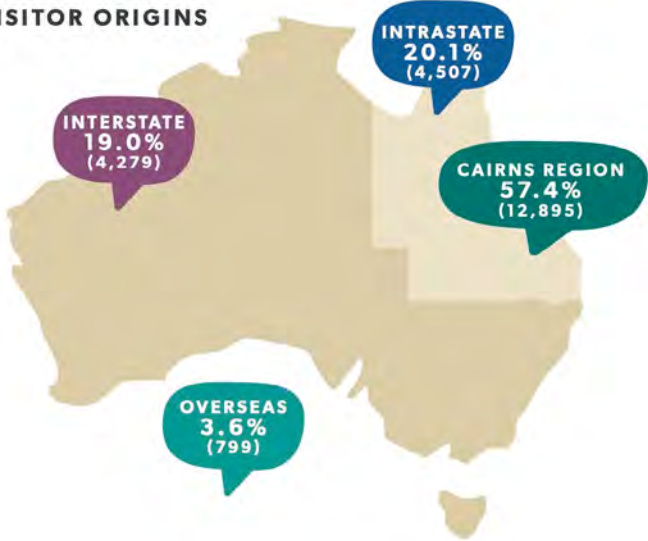
Darrel Harris (until March 2024) – Chief Executive Officer
Dennis Stokes (from May 2024) – Chief Executive Officer
Francoise Lane – Artistic Director (to Sept 2024)
Teho Ropeyarn – Curatorial Associate (to Sept 2024) Artistic Director (from Sept 2024)
Wanda Weatherall – Office Manager
India Collins – Exhibitions Manager
Gavin King – Marketing and Partnerships Coordinator
Catherine Curnow – Exhibitions Assistant
Megsi O’Toole – Project Manager
Violet Stannard – Creative Producer



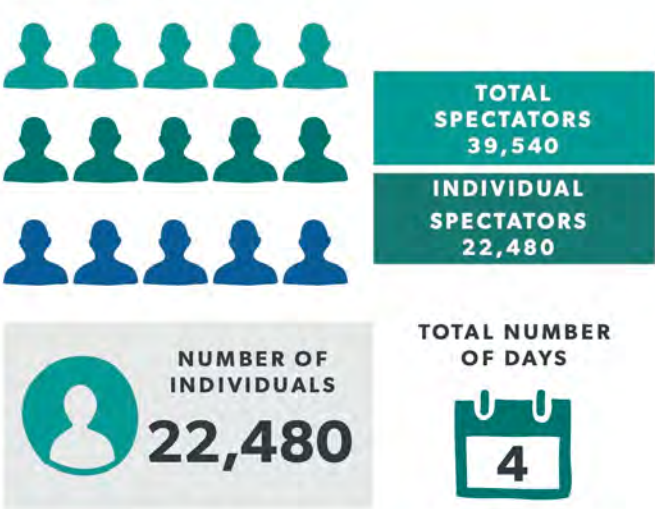
CATAPULT Artist, Arabella Walker amongst her CIAF 2024 Art Fair booth. Photograph: Blueclick Photography.

ATTENDANCE AND AUDIENCE

VISITOR ORIGINS



ATTENDANCES



ECONOMIC AND TOURISM IMPACTS

Total Direct and Incremental Expenditure for Cairns Region

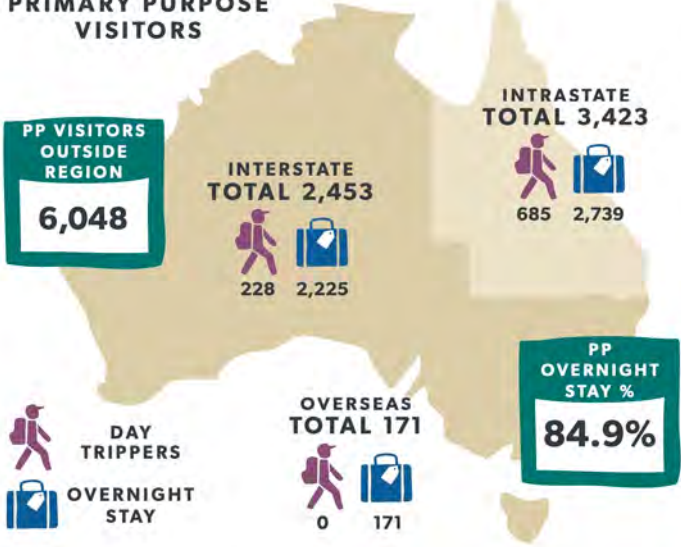


Total Direct and Incremental Expenditure for Other Queensland



*Intrastate visitor contribution in other parts of Queensland.

PRIMARY PURPOSE VISITORS



VISITOR DAY TRIP EXPENDITURE



OVERNIGHT VISITOR EXPENDITURE



DIRECT VISITOR NIGHTS

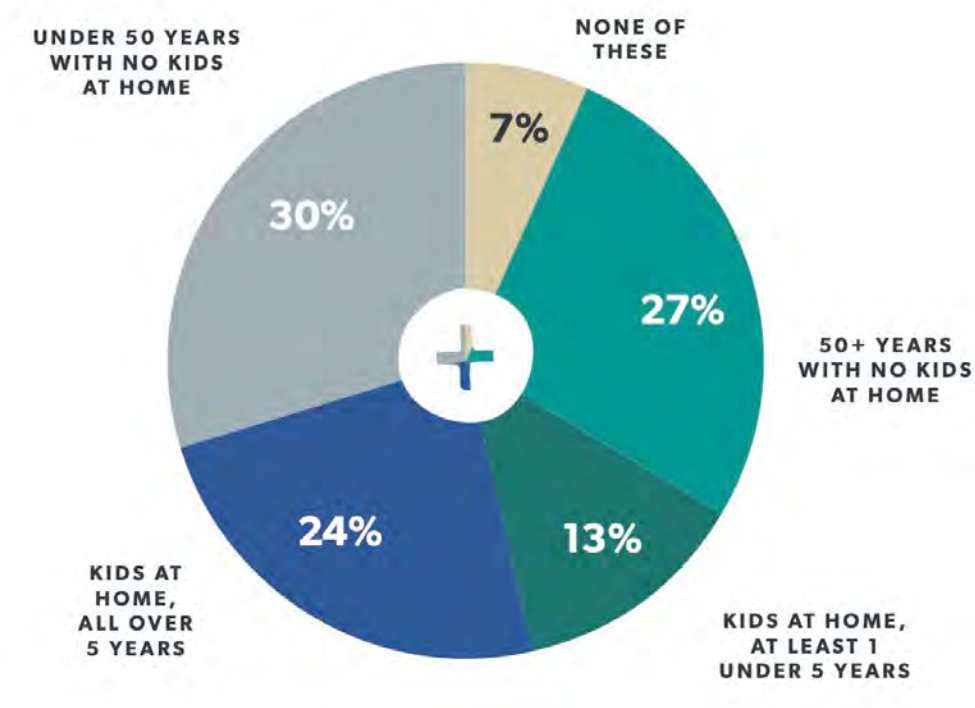
	CAIRNS REGION	OTHER QUEENSLAND	AVERAGE NIGHTS IN QUEENSLAND
INTRASTATE VISITORS	15,928	350	5.9
INTERSTATE VISITORS	12,718	1,791	6.5
OVERSEAS VISITORS	342	0	2.0
TOTAL	28,989	2,142	6.1
TOTAL DIRECT VISITOR NIGHTS IN QUEENSLAND			31,130

NET PROMOTER SCORE

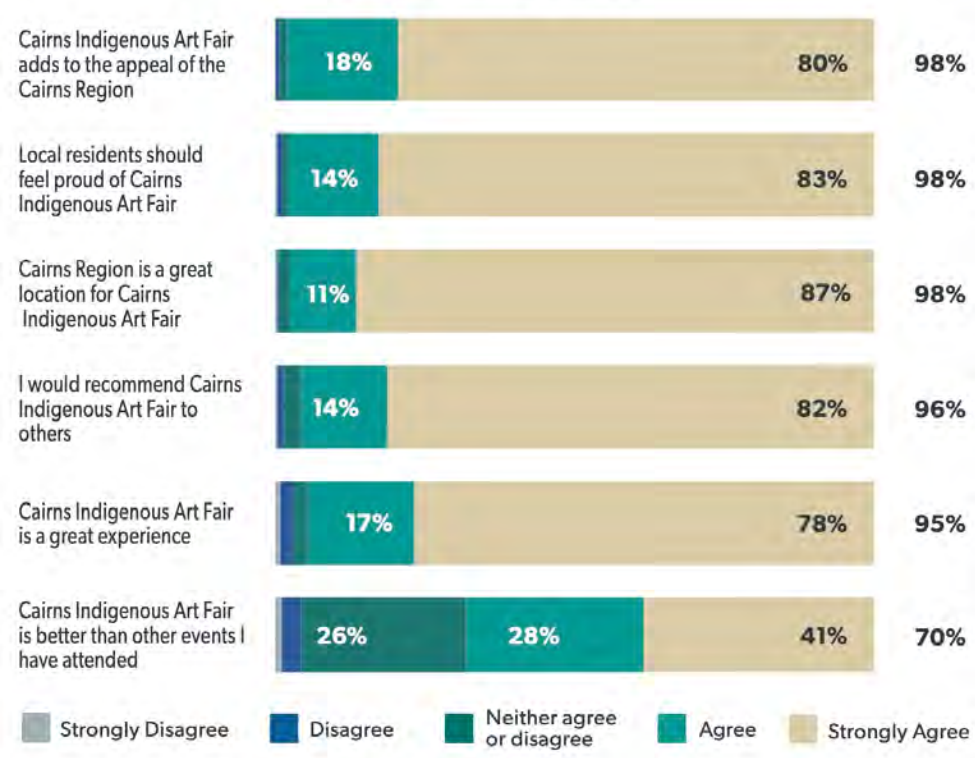


ATTENDANCE AND AUDIENCE

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE



COMMUNITY PRIDE



FINANCIAL REPORTS

Sales & Income Summary

Total income generated for artists across CIAF 2024: \$766,114.04

This includes revenue from art sales, licensing, performance programs, artist fees, and participation in specific initiatives like *BLAKtivation*, *CATAPULT*, and *BLOOM*.

Art Sales Overview

Art Fair Sales

Total Art Fair Sales: \$369,152.98

- Art Centres: \$151,628.98
- Commercial Galleries: \$59,950.00
- Independent Galleries: \$122,080.00
- CATAPULT Artists: \$34,904.00
- BLOOM Artists: \$1,590.00

Art Market Sales

Total Art Market Sales:

\$197,384.06

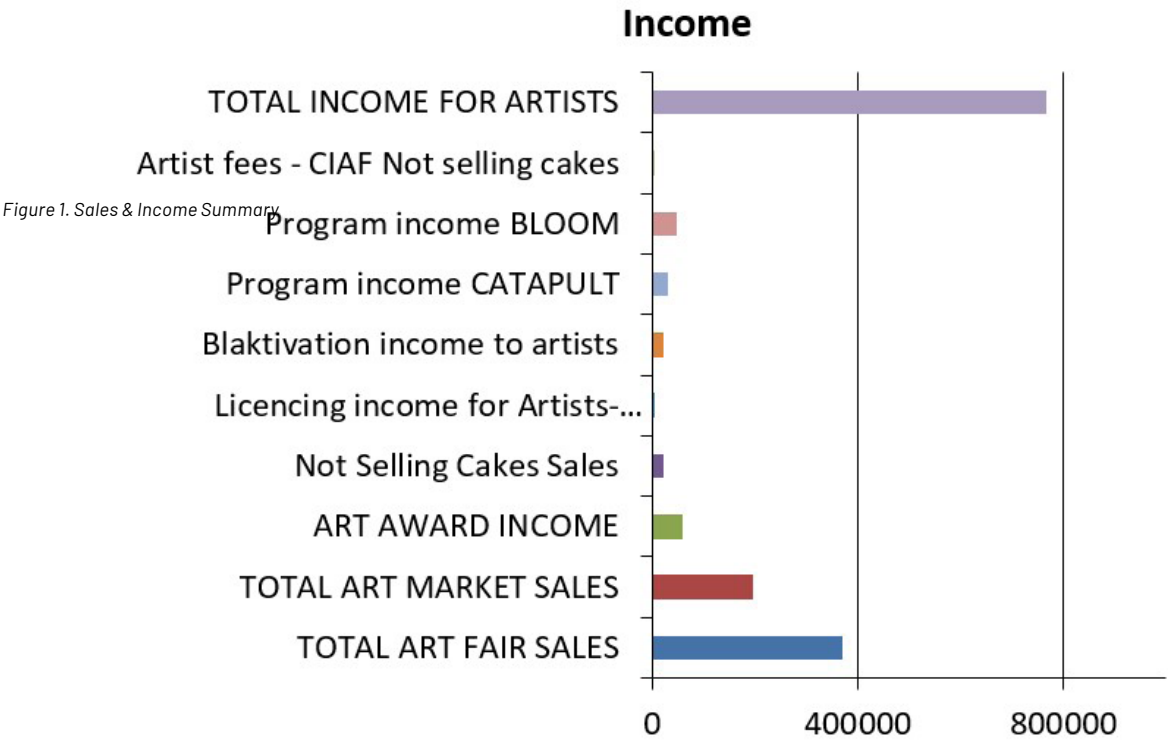
Featured over 25 exhibitors including Hope Vale Arts, Yalanji Arts, Delvene Cockatoo-Collins, and Moa Arts.

Highest individual sales included Hope Vale (\$20,184), Yalanji Arts (\$18,386), and Delvene Cockatoo-Collins (\$13,728.96).

Ticket Sales and Stand Fees

Total ticketed program and stand fee income: \$243,467.45

- Opening Night: \$37,083.81
- Fashion Performance: \$46,409.09
- Symposium: \$1,854.55
- Masterclasses: \$7,036.36
- Collectors & Curators Program: \$44,633.64
- CIAF Stand Fees: \$106,450.00



FINANCIAL REPORTS

Figure 2. Art Market Breakdown of Sales

ART MARKET
Breakdown of Sales

Art Market	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	TOTALS
CAAF Merchandise	\$675.00	\$645.00	\$1,185.00	\$1,185.00	\$3,690.00
Art of Melanie Hava	\$675.00	\$1,900.00	\$2,510.00	\$1,328.82	\$6,413.82
Australia Gallery				\$300.00	\$300.00
Badu Art Centre	\$1,365.00	\$5,433.00	\$6,101.00	\$2,411.00	\$15,310.00
Bama Bandjil Buluru	\$560.00	\$1,470.00	\$1,935.00	\$1,400.00	\$6,365.00
Creek Cottage Weaving	\$704.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,925.00	\$1,435.00	\$6,814.00
Dawal Wuru Aboriginal Corporation					\$0.00
Delvene Cockatoo-Collins	\$3,511.58	\$4,719.12	\$4,285.80	\$1,212.48	\$13,728.96
Erub Arts	\$883.00	\$1,887.00	\$2,281.00	\$2,068.00	\$7,119.00
Gab Titil Cultural Centre					\$0.00
Gimuy Walubara Yidinji	\$176.00	\$96.00	\$2,490.60	\$1,865.78	\$4,628.38
Gimungun Aboriginal Art Centre	\$829.00	\$7,534.00	\$2,080.50	\$1,372.00	\$11,815.50
Gumbeen and Girls					\$0.00
HopeVale Arts and Cultural Centre	\$3,368.00	\$8,380.00	\$6,024.00	\$2,412.00	\$20,184.00
Hunter Gatherer Networks	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$0.00
I & Y's Wearable Material Culture					\$0.00
Kellybarclay ART		\$1,020.00	\$850.00	\$1,900.00	\$3,770.00
Kgari 3 Sisters	\$560.00	\$2,587.00	\$3,065.00	\$1,460.00	\$7,672.00
Kuranda Indigenous Tourism Hub					\$0.00
Lauren Rogers Arts	\$545.90	\$3,189.85	\$7,909.00	\$1,336.65	\$12,981.40
Lockart River Arts					\$0.00
Moa Arts	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$13,917.00	\$13,917.00
Munganbana Reef and Rainforest Aboriginal Art	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Native Creations Australia	\$735.00	\$1,345.00	\$917.00	\$1,360.00	\$4,357.00
Pompuraaw Art & Cultural Centre Inc.	\$950.00	\$4,300.00	\$4,230.00	\$1,055.00	\$10,535.00
Salt Water Murrin Quandamooka	\$1,410.00	\$1,155.00	2045	\$835.00	\$6,445.00
Small Hands Big Heart	\$1,400.00	\$1,875.00	\$2,600.00	\$1,620.00	\$7,495.00
Thancoupie Bursary Fund					\$0.00
WetNum Arts & Crafts	\$630.00	\$680.00	\$485.00	\$2,180.00	\$3,975.00
WidiWorks Aboriginal Art Gallery	n/a	\$4,480.00	\$580.00	\$3,880.00	\$8,940.00
Yalanji Arts - Mossman Gorge	\$2,720.00	\$7,346.00	\$4,217.00	\$4,103.00	\$18,386.00
Yarrabah Arts & Cultural Precinct	\$800.00		\$2,034.00	\$710.00	\$3,544.00
TOTAL ART MARKET SALES	\$22,497.48	\$61,791.97	\$59,749.90	\$53,344.71	\$197,384.06

Figure 3. Art Fair Sales - Art Centres

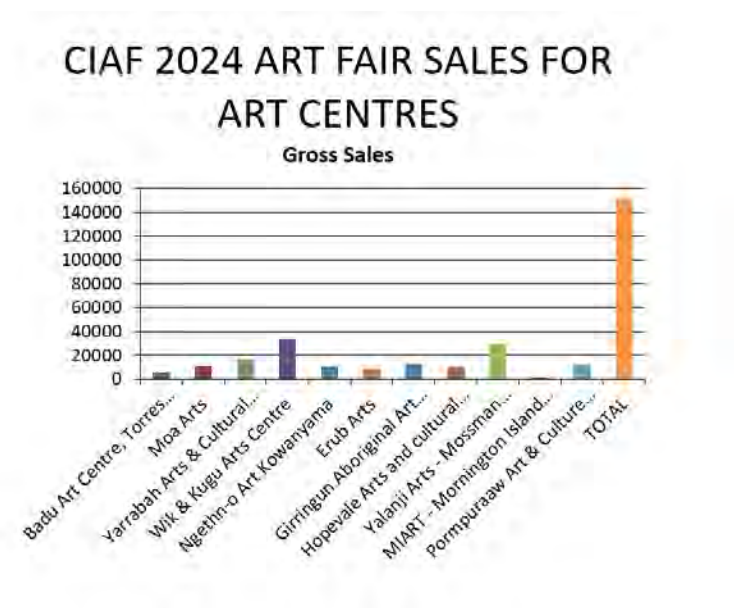


Figure 4. Art Fair Breakdown of Sales

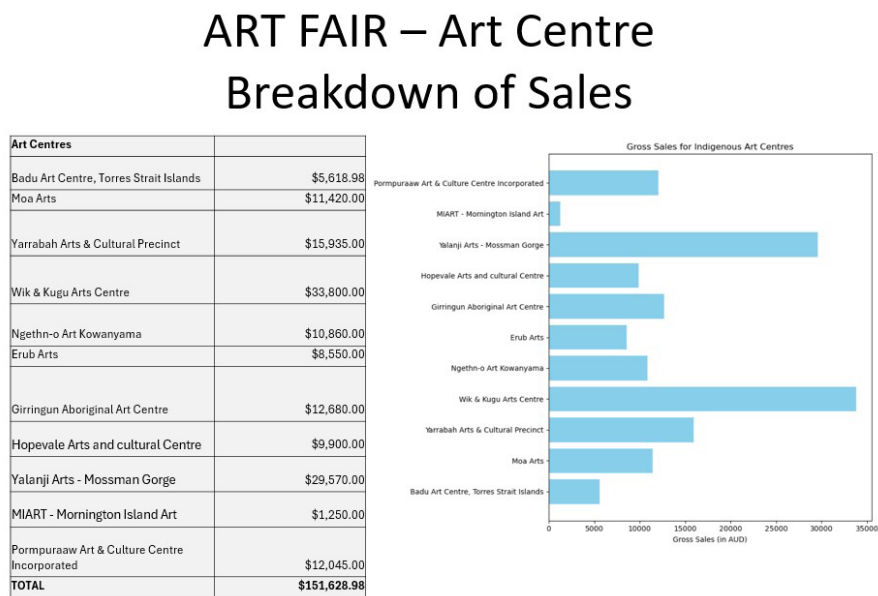


Figure 6. Art Fair Sales

CIAF 2024 ART FAIR SALES FOR COMMERCIAL GALLERIES

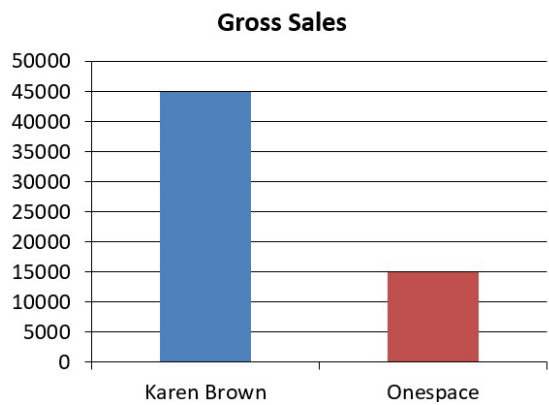


Figure 5. Art Fair - Commercial
Galleries Breakdown of Sales

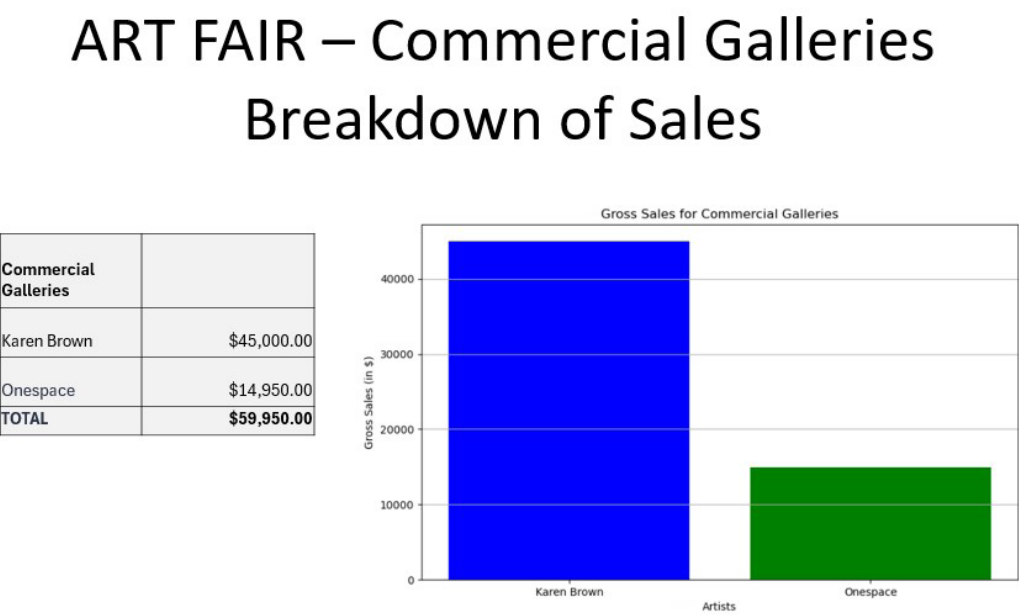
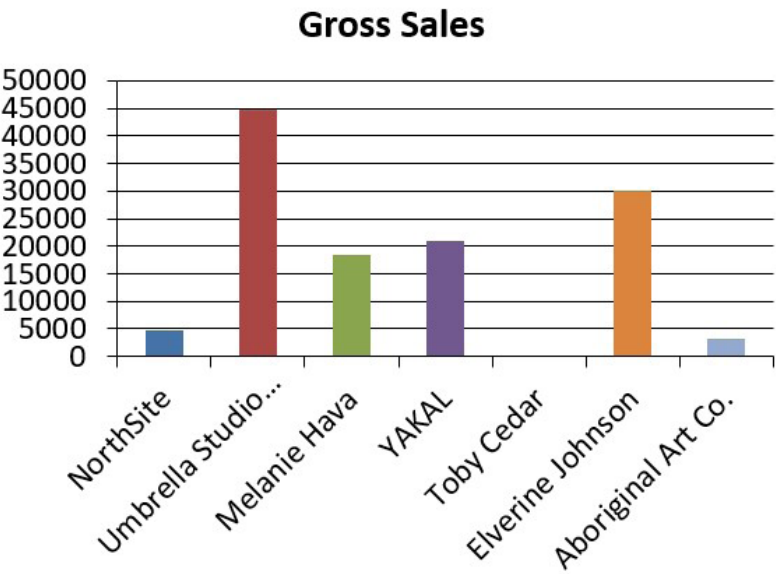


Figure 6. Art Fair Sales - Independent
Galleries

CIAF 2024 ART FAIR SALES FOR INDEPENDENT GALLERIES



FINANCIAL REPORTS

Figure 7. Art Fair - Independent
Galleries Breakdown of Sales

Art Fair – Independent Galleries
Breakdown of Sales

Independent Galleries	
NorthSite	\$4,650.00
Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts	\$44,780.00
Melanie Hava	\$18,400.00
YAKAL	\$21,000.00
Toby Cedar	\$-
Elverine Johnson	\$30,000.00
Aboriginal Art Co.	\$3,250.00
TOTAL	\$122,080.00

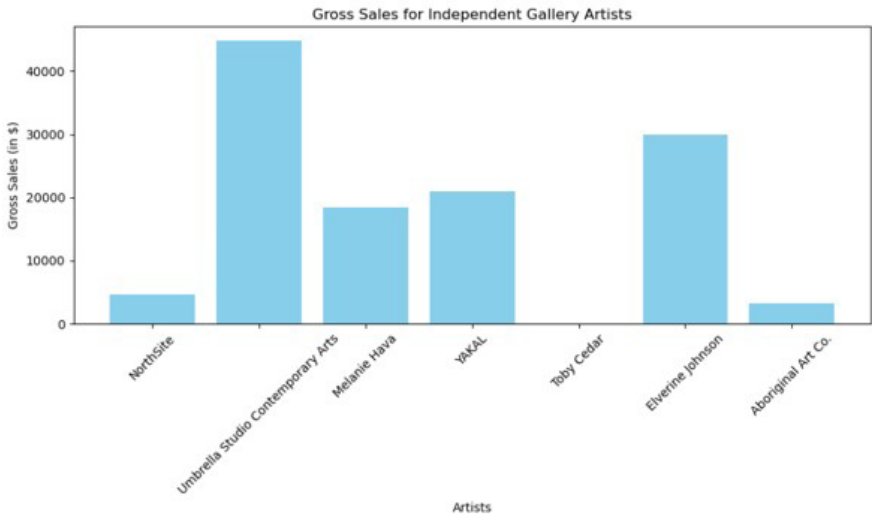


Figure 8. Art Fair Sales - CATAPULT Artists

CIAF 2024 ART FAIR SALES FOR
CATAPULT ARTISTS

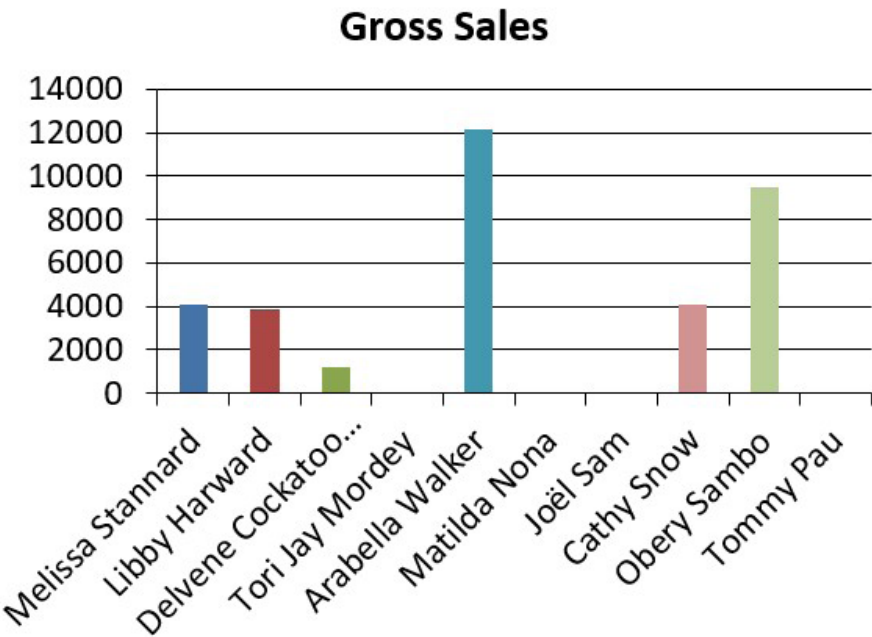


Figure 9. Art Fair - CATAPULT Artists
Breakdown of Sales

ART FAIR – Catapult Artists Breakdown of Sales

CATAPULT artists	Gross sales
Melissa Stannard	\$4,074.00
Libby Harward	\$3,860.00
Delvene Cockatoo Collins	\$1,220.00
Tori Jay Mordey	\$-
Arabella Walker	\$12,150.00
Matilda Nona	\$-
Joël Sam	\$-
Cathy Snow	\$4,100.00
Obery Sambo	\$9,500.00
Tommy Pau	\$-
TOTAL	\$34,904.00

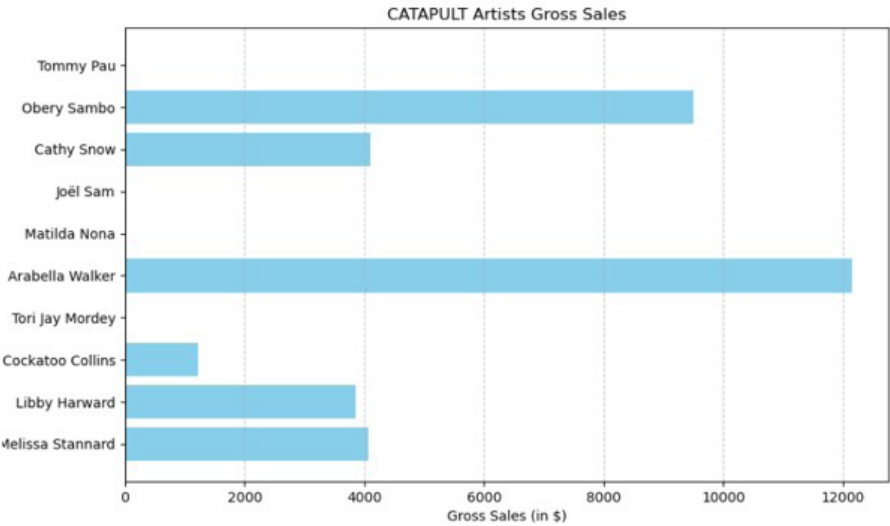
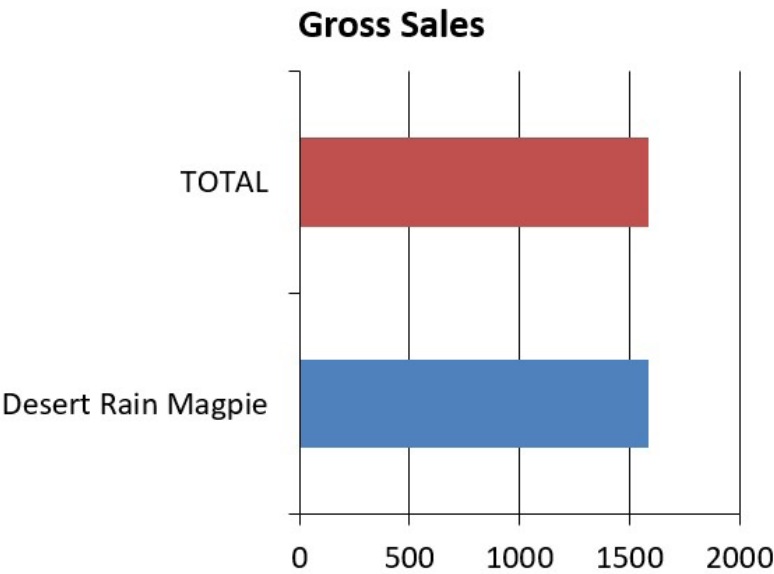


Figure 10. Art Fair Sales - BLOOM
Artists

CIAF 2024 ART FAIR SALES FOR BLOOM ARTISTS



FINANCIAL REPORTS

Figure 11. Art Fair – BLOOM Artists
Breakdown of Sales

ART FAIR – Bloom Artists
Breakdown of Sales

BLOOM artists	
Desert Rain Magpie	\$1,590.00
TOTAL	\$1,590.00

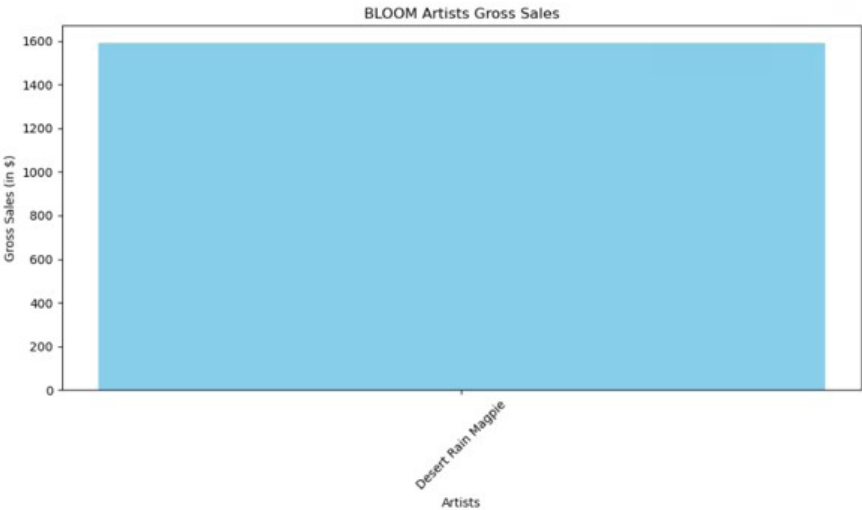
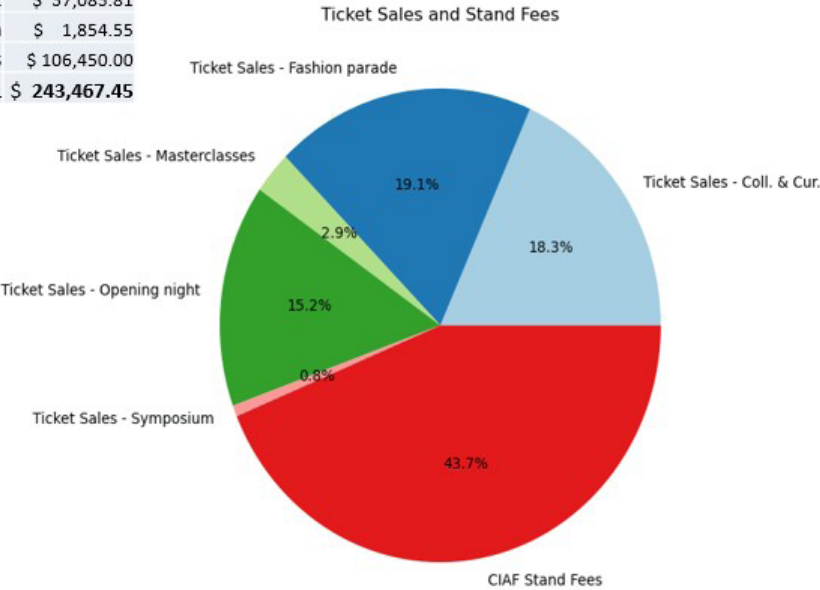


Figure 12. Ticket Sales & Stand Fees

Ticket Sales and Stand Fees

Ticket Sales - Coll. & Cur.	\$ 44,633.64
Ticket Sales - Fashion parade	\$ 46,409.09
Ticket Sales - Masterclasses	\$ 7,036.36
Ticket Sales - Opening night	\$ 37,083.81
Ticket Sales - Symposium	\$ 1,854.55
CIAF Stand Fees	\$ 106,450.00
TOTAL	\$ 243,467.45



OUR SUPPORTERS

Government Funders

Arts Queensland - Backing Indigenous Arts Investment Fund

Arts Queensland - Touring Exhibition

Arts Queensland - QASP Advancing Independent Artists

Arts Queensland - Development Fund

Arts Queensland - FNCF

Arts Queensland - Growth Funding

Creative Australia - Multi Year Funding

Creative Australia - International Travel Project Funding

Cairns Regional Council

Office of the Arts - IVAIS

Office of the Arts - ILA

Program Partners

Tourism Events Queensland (TEQ)

Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA)

CIAF is supported by the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation and receives funding from Creative Australia through the Australian Cultural Fund.



Premier's Award Winner for Excellence Joel Sam and QLD Minister for the Arts Leeanne Enoch, CIAF Art Fair 2024.
Photograph: Blueclick Photography.

SPONSORS-CORPORATE

CIAF continued to attract strong support from a range of sponsors, including new partnerships with companies with large corporate footprints across Queensland and Australia. The support of sponsors contributed to the general operations of CIAF, the Independent Artist Program and the annual Art Awards.

- Energy Queensland
- Of One Mind
- Holding Redlich
- Minter Ellison
- University Of Sydney
- Coral Expeditions
- Cairns Emergency Medical Association (CEMA)

ART AWARD SPONSORS

- Premiers Award for Excellence - Queensland Government (\$25,000)
- Art Centre Award - Cairns Regional Council (\$10,000)
- Innovation Award - Holding Redlich (\$10,000)
- 3D Design, Sculpture & Installation - Ports North (\$5,000)
- Emerging Art Award - University of Sydney (\$5,000)
- People's Choice - Torres Strait Regional Authority (\$5,000)

Gertie Deeral, Wetlands, 2024, Acrylic on linen. Photograph: Michael Marzick.



CIAF



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WARNING: This report may contain images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who are deceased. The Cairns Indigenous Art Fair advises that this report is published in good faith, without intent to cause distress to anyone of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage. Information in this publication is current at time of printing.