

Dennis Nona

Bio

"It's not every artist who has exhibition openings in Paris and Sydney within days of each other. But that is the story of our next guest who's recognised as one of our most prominent indigenous artists. Dennis Nona was born on Badu Island in the western reaches of the Torres Strait in 1973 and he's spent 15 years perfecting his extraordinarily intricate work in linoprints."

Excerpt taken from "Bush Telegraph", ABC Rural, 18th April, 2006.

"The medium with which he established his reputation is associated with bold and simple designs, but Nona's lino cuts are quite different from that. Like the intricate carvings on Melanesian artefacts, his prints are very elaborate. They depict traditional cosmologies and ancestral histories, using many figures and symbols to build up a vigorously animated field of action. Because of the complex detail, the overall tonal effect is surprisingly subtle." (Taken from www.artcollector.net.au "Dennis Nona" by Timothy Morrell)

Solo Exhibitions

2006

Sesserae; New Works by Dennis Nona, Cooee Aboriginal Art, Sydney

Sesserae; New Works by Dennis Nona, Australian Embassy, Paris

Sesserae; New Works by Dennis Nona, Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London

2005

Sesserae; The Art of Dennis Nona, Dell Gallery at Queensland College of Art, Brisbane

Sesserae and Other Stories, Kickarts, Cairns

Sesserae; New Prints by Dennis Nona, Darwin Entertainment Centre Gallery, Darwin

Group Exhibitions

2006

bangu yibara: works from the MCA Collection, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney

2005

22nd Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award

Shell Fremantle Print Award 1975-2005

Busan International Print Art Festival, Busan, Korea

ARC Art, Design & Craft Biennial, Brisbane

2004

Christchurch Art Gallery/Te Puna, Waiwhetu, Christchurch/Aotearoa, NZ

Fragments, Little Stanley Street Gallery, Brisbane

21st Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award

Angel Orensanz International Art Award, New York, USA (Winner)

Robin O'Chin Memorial Art Award, Brisbane

Shell Fremantle Art Award, Fremantle

Artscape Group Exhibition, Brisbane

2003

Beneath the Monsoon - Visions North of Capricorn, Artspace Mackay, Mackay; Cairns Regional Gallery, Cairns

Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville

Dream Traces, Brighton University, Brighton, UK

Tjibaou Cultural Centre, Noumea, New Caledonia

Bovicai Collaborative Exhibition, Qld

Coochimadlo Island Market Exhibition, Qld

Indigenous Outback Exhibition, NAIDOC Day, Brisbane

Michael Fox Gallery, Brisbane

Pandanus Art Collaborative Exhibition, Currumbin Beach

19th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award, Darwin
Shell Fremantle Art Award, Fremantle
Christchurch Art Gallery/Te Puna, Waiwhetu, Christchurch/Aotearoa, NZ

2002

Paipa - 'Windward', National Museum of Australia, Canberra

2001 - 2004

Gelam Nguzu Kazi - Gelam My Son, Travelling Exhibition. Australian Museum, Sydney
Alcheringa Gallery, Victoria B.C. Canada
Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London, UK
Brisbane City Gallery, Brisbane, Damien Minton Gallery, Newcastle
Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra
Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne; New England Regional Art Museum, Armidale
Manning Regional Art Gallery, Taree
Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery, Stanthorpe
Tandanya Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide
Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo ; Mildura Arts Centre, Mildura
Wagga Wagga Regional Art Gallery, Wagga Wagga
Manly Art Gallery, Manly
Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, Toowoomba
Noosa Regional Art Gallery, Tewantin
Cairns Regional Art Gallery, Cairns
Gab Titui Cultural Centre, Thursday Island

2001

Islands in the Sun, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
18th National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory,
Darwin
Trakin Kultja, National Museum of Australia, Canberra
Thaigy Minaral - Beautiful Patterns, Port Kennedy Hall, Thursday Island

1995

Same but Different, Aboriginal and Islander Students at the Australian National University, School of Arts Gallery,
Canberra
Mixed Exhibition, Fireworks Gallery, Brisbane

1994

Gold Coast Art Award, Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Surfers Paradise, QLD
International Print Exhibition, Machida, Tokyo, Japan
Aboriginal Exhibition, South Australian Art Gallery, Adelaide
Malu Ural, National Maritime Museum, Sydney
Aboriginal Art Award, Heritage Commission, Canberra

1993

Aboriginal Printmakers, Northern Territory University Art Gallery, Darwin
Mixed Exhibition, Cooee Aboriginal Art Gallery, Sydney
Contemporary Prints from Aboriginal Australia, Augen Gallery, Portland, Oregon, USA
Cairns TAFE Students, Studio One, Canberra
Australian Aboriginal Printmakers, Davidson Galleries, Seattle, Washington, USA

1992/1993

New Tracks Old Land: An Exhibition of Contemporary Prints from Aboriginal Australia, touring USA and Australia

1992

One People One Soul, Palm Court Gallery, Cairns, QLD
Colours of Black, Queensland Aboriginal Creations, Brisbane
Group Exhibition, Gallery of Australian Landscape, Brisbane

Cross Currents, Coeee Aboriginal Art Gallery, Sydney
The Ninth Aboriginal Art Award Exhibition, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin

1991

The Eighth National Aboriginal Art Award Exhibition, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin
Group Show, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney
Cairns Art Society Exhibition, Cairns Regional Art Gallery, Cairns, QLD

Awards

Winner of the Works on Paper Award in the 25th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards of 2008

2007 Telstra Aboriginal Art Award
Cairns State High School Art Award, Cairns
Cairns State High School Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies Award, Cairns Electorate Arts Achievement Award, Canberra
Machida International Print Exhibition, Tokyo, Japan
4th Angel Orensanz International Art Award, New York, USA
Griffith University Lions Club Equity Bursery for Excellence in the Batchelor of Contemporary Australian Indigenous Art, Brisbane
Parliament of Australia & Leichhardt Electorate Arts Achievement Award, Canberra

Collections

Artbank, Sydney
Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
Australian National University Printmaking Collection, Canberra
Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Ballarat
Brighton University, Brighton, UK
Cairns Regional Gallery
Cambridge University Museum, UK
Charles Darwin University Art Collection, Darwin
Flinders University Art Museum, Adelaide
Gateway Horn Island Museum, Horn Island
Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Surfers Paradise
Griffith University Art Collection, Nathan
Machida Graphic Arts Museum, Tokyo, Japan
Museum of American Indian Arts, New Mexico, USA
Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour, Sydney
Noosa Regional Gallery, Noosa Heads
OTC Collection, Sydney
Parliament House, Canberra
Perc Tucker Gallery, Townsville
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
Queensland Museum, Brisbane
Queensland University of Technology Art Collection, Brisbane
University of Wollongong Art Collection, Wollongong
Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK

Commissions

Australian Indigenous Medicare Card logo
Badu Island Council mural
Thursday Island State High School mural
Cairns North State Primary School mural

Wakaid Coral Sea logo design
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Housing poster design
Badu Island State Primary School sports shirt logo design
Kubin, Moa Island Net Ball Team logo design