

## 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, 18<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 Bachelor 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