

INTERTWINED

Indigenous Fibre Art from North Queensland

A Cairns Regional Gallery Curated Exhibition

21 May
to
18 July 2010

The creation of fibre art has a long history in Indigenous Australia. Images of fibre art appear in the oldest sequence of rock art paintings from around 25,000 years ago and, in most parts of Australia, indigenous people continue to practice these crafts.

Intertwined: Indigenous Fibre Basketry from North Queensland is an exhibition developed by Cairns Regional Gallery exploring local contemporary weaving by some of the region's most experienced Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners, including Jenny Mye [Erub], Jacob Gabey [Mer], Eileen Coleman [Pormpuraaw], Ruby Ludwick [Yarrabah] and Tonya Grant [Tully].

Transforming plant, fur and even human hair into weaving fibres is a complex process requiring knowledge, expertise, skill and artistry in collecting and processing plant material.

The contemporary production of artistic forms is an important means by which cultural traditions are continued or renewed. This continued production in remote areas of Queensland has provided sale opportunities, important sources of income where there are few formal opportunities for employment. As well as economic usefulness, production involves social opportunities in the gathering of raw materials as well as the occasion to gather food and pass on skills and knowledge.

Brian Robinson - Exhibition Manager

FLOOR TALK

Saturday 5 June, time TBC

Brian Robinson, the Cairns Regional Gallery Exhibitions Manager and curator for this exhibition will present this informative floor talk about the traditional and contemporary weaving culture in FNQ.



Jacob Gabey Woven basket A, B, C 2009 woven coconut frond



Ruby Ludwick, Basket 1, date tbc
Woven pandanus palm fibre with natural dyes



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