

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE CAIRNS REGIONAL GALLERY COLLECTION

JUNE
2010

Dennis Nona

Sesserae

Donated by Theo Tremblay

Queensland-based master printer Theodore Tremblay, a resident of Cairns and supporter of Cairns Regional Gallery, has generously donated a work on paper – a linocut print to the Cairns Regional Gallery Collection.

Dennis Nona is regarded as one of the most important Torres Straits artists to-date. Born on Badu (Mulgrave Island) in 1973 he was taught as a young boy the traditional craft of woodcarving. This skill has been developed and translated into highly intricate linocuts, etchings and sculptures created by the artist since 1989. He holds a Diploma of Art from Cairns TAFE, a Diploma of Visual Art from ANU and is currently completing his Masters of Arts in Visual Art at the Queensland College of Art, Griffith University, Brisbane.

Nona pioneered the development of the highly intricate linocut prints unique to the Torres Strait Islands. He has documented in vivid visual form, the ancient myths and legends of his island and the wider Torres Strait community that had previously been transmitted by oral storytelling and dance.

Nona is represented in numerous public and private collections throughout Australia and overseas including Artbank, Art Gallery of NSW, Queensland Art Gallery, National Gallery of Australia, Queensland Museum, Parliament House, Cambridge University Museum, Victoria and Albert Museum (UK), Machida Graphic Arts Museum (Tokyo) and Museum of American Indian Arts (New Mexico)

Sesserae is also the title of Nona's first major solo exhibition, which was opened at Dell Gallery, Griffith University before touring to 18 venues throughout Australia and overseas.

The acquisition of this particular work *Sesserae* (2005) continues the Gallery's relationship with indigenous artists of the Torres Strait, enhancing our holdings of works under the genre of Indigenous Australian Art. Nona is currently represented in the collection by 7 linocuts, 1 etching and 1 silkscreen print.



Dennis NONA, *Sesserae* 2005
linocut printed in black from one block, with hand colouring [watercolour]
edition W/P [workshop proof] 122 x 205cm [paper size]



CAIRNS
REGIONAL
GALLERY

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