

# EVERYWHEN ART

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

### Netta Loogatha



Netta Loogatha was born 1/07/1942 and is one of the senior artists of Mornington Island Arts, Mornington Island. She started painting at the same time as her late sister Sally Gabori in 2005. However, Gabori's meteorite rise to art superstardom somewhat eclipsed the careers of her sisters, and many other artists of Mornington Island for some time. Loogatha however has maintained a steady and committed painting practice and is still painting strongly and meaningfully and her work is regaining its previously strong attention. In 2017 her original painted bags and dresses were the hit of the highly acclaimed fashion parade at the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, stopping the show as she modelled them herself.

She describes her work and life:

"It's good to make artworks, learn from each other. We learned all about our country and story places from our old people. Now we are painting and drawing them so our grandchildren will learn all about them. "Our Aunty Sally Gabori showed us the way, to learn from her and follow in her footsteps. We have our own paintings and drawings now of our homelands and sacred places, where we were born, oyster reefs and waterholes or camping spots. I am happy to show other people my country and culture through my art. It brings a smile to my face when I finish an artwork and see a part of me on it. "

"I was born on Bentinck Island at a place on the Northern side called Bilmee. We lived in humpies then - no clothes nothing at all. I learnt to hunt from an early age, how to fish and collect shellfish, how to gather foods from the bush. I was young when the Europeans came in 1946 to take us away from our home and forced us to live on Mornington Island in the dormitory in the mission there."

"My father was King Alfred, he had six wives. When he died, his brother Percy took over the family and took care of us. When I grew up I went to the mainland and worked as a housemaid like a lot of the young girls from the island. I enjoyed this time being young and having fun. I returned to Mornington and became strongly involved in Land Rights and my people's wish to return to our homeland. I was a grandmother by the time we returned to our homeland and I use to live there most of the year, only returning to Mornington for the wet season. Now I am getting too old to live there. I cry for an opportunity to set my foot on my homeland again. My artworks have become even more important to me to keep my memories of my home and culture ever strong."

### Solo Exhibitions

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2019 Woolloongabba Art Gallery, Brisbane

2018 Pandanus Gallery, Queensland

2013 Netta Loogatha - New Paintings - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne

### Group Exhibitions - Recent

2018 CIAF - Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, Cairns, QLD

2017 From Nature, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC

2017 Curated Exhibition: Family Values, CIAF - Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, Cairns, QLD

2017 CIAF Indigenous Fashion Performance - Wandan (Future), Cairns, QLD

2016 Land of All - Dulka Wangiid, Art Mob, Hobart, Tasmania

2016 Finalist Exhibition of Kennedy Prize on Painting - Kennedy Arts Foundation, South Australia

2016 Finalist Exhibition of Swan Hill Print & Drawing Acquisitive Awards - Swan Hill Regional Gallery, Victoria

2016 CIAF Birrimbi Dulgu Bajal Indigenous Fashion Performance - Virgin Airlines Melbourne Fashion Festival Cultural Program

2016 Colour Forms: Paintings & Sculpture From Mornington Island - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne

2016 MI Art, MI Fashion, Mi Models - Where art meets fashion. Virgin Airlines Melbourne Fashion Festival Cultural Program at Alcaston

2016 Finalist Exhibition of Adelaide Perry Prize For Drawing - Adelaide Perry Gallery, Sydney

2015 My Island Home - Alcaston Gallery

2015 CIAF - Cairns Indigenous Art Fair Market

2015 Currents: Trends & Movements in Queensland Indigenous ArtCentres Exhibition, Cairns Tanks Gallery

2015 Warriors, Sorcerers & Spirits - KickArts Contemporary Arts, Cairns

2015 Sorority - International Womens Day Exhibition - Cairns Tanks Gallery

2015 Indigenous Art: Moving Backwards into the Future - National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

2014 Public Art Exhibition G20 Summit - Colour Me Brisbane - Brisbane

2014 Cairns Indigenous Art Fair - MI Art & Alcaston Gallery

2014 Pencil, Paint, Paper - Seascapes of Bentinck Island - Alcaston, Melbourne

2013 Kinship - A Celebration of Fine Arts from Far North Queensland Indigenous Art Centre - Tanks Art Centre, Cairns

2013 My Country - I Still Call Australia Home: Contemporary Art from Black Australia - QAG/GOMA, Brisbane

2013 An Architects Eye - Centre of Contemporary Arts, Cairns

2012 Artists from Bentinck Island & Mornington Island, Queensland - Alcaston Gallery

2012 Cairns Indigenous Art Fair - MI Art & Alcaston Gallery

2011 Korea International Art Fair - Seoul, South Korea

2011 Artists From Mornington Island Art - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne

2011 Cairns Indigenous Art Fair - Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal, Cairns, Australia

2011 Painting Country: Recent Acquisitions of Indigenous Art - University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane

2010 Cairns Indigenous Art Fair - Tanks Art Centre, Cairns, Queensland, Australia

2009 Bentinck Island Artists - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne

2009 Cairns Indigenous Art Fair - Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal, Cairns, Queensland

2008 Painters of Bentinck Island - Raft Artspace, Alice Spring

2008 Bandikawaanda Makuwalada Rarunginja Thaand - Return of Kaiadilt Women - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne

2007 Dulka Warngiid Bentinck Is Artists featuring Netta Loogatha - Alcaston Gallery

2007 Xstrata Coal Emerging Indigenous Art Award - Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

2007 Painters of Bentinck Island - Raft Art Space, Darwin

2007 Painting Up Country: New Art Form The Mornington and Bentinck Islands - KickArts Contemporary Arts, Cairns

2007 Lardil, Kaiadilt, Yangkaal - Woolloongabba Art Gallery, Queensland

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2007 Mornington Island Art featuring Mirdidingingathi Juwarnda Sally Gabori - Depot Gallery, Sydney;  
Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne

2007 24th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award - Museum and Art Gallery of the NT,  
Darwin

2006 Melbourne Art Fair - Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne

2006 Big Ones Little Ones - Boomali, Sydney

2006 Sally Gabori & Introducing the Bentinck Island Art Gang - Grantpirrie Art Gallery, Redfern

2006 Bentinck Island Project - Wooloongabba Art Gallery, Queensland

2006 Birrmyui - Wooloongabba Art Gallery, Queensland

## Collections

Leeuwin Estate, Margaret River, Western Australia

The Lagerberg - Swift Collection

The Marshall Collection

The Merenda Collection

Artbank

Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

UQ Art Museum - The University of Queensland, Brisbane

University of Western Sydney, Sydney

Mornington Island Art - Netta Loogatha

Melbourne Recital Centre, Melbourne

The John Mainwaring Collection

## Publications

2005 Mornington Island Arts & Crafts, Gununa Mornington Island, Wooloongabba Art Gallery

2006 The Bentinck Project, Wooloongabba Art Gallery

2007 McLean, Bruce, Xstrata Coal Emerging Indigenous Art Award 2007, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane

2007 Machan, Kim, 'Art Notes QLD - National Emerging Indigenous Artists,' Art Monthly, Issue 202, August

2007 Sorensen, Rosemary, 'Confounding Expectations', Art Monthly, Issue 202, August

2008 The Heart of Everything: The Art and Artists of Mornington & Bentinck Islands, Mornington Island Arts  
and Crafts, McCulloch & McCulloch Australian Art Books Pty Ltd

2013 Museum Voor Hedendaagse Aboriginal Kunst Annual Report, p. 13

2013 My Country - I Still Call Australia Home, QAGOMA Preview Jun-Aug 2013 p. 13

2013 Kinship – A Celebration of Fine Art From Far North Queensland Indigenous Art Centres, Tanks Art Centre

2015 Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art in the Collection of the National Gallery of Victoria, Judith Ryan,  
National Gallery of Victoria