

EVERYWHEN ART

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Fiona Omeenyo



Birth date: 1981

Birth place: Lockhart River, QLD

Language: Umpila

Fiona Omeenyo first appeared on the contemporary art scene in the late 1990s as one of the more prominent members of the newly established Far North Queensland's renowned Lockhart River 'Art Gang'. A small and remote community, Lockhart River is located eight hundred kilometres north of Cairns on the Eastern Cape York Peninsula. Growing up, she experienced traditional life - such as camping, fishing, gathering berries - within and around the Lockhart River, Claudie River, Quintell Beach, Chilli Beach, Great Barrier Reef, and the Iron Range (Kutini-Payamu) National Park.

More recently, Omeenyo has been living and working in Cairns as well as completing private and corporate commissions in Brisbane studios. Her paintings continue to reflect both traditional stories and contemporary themes associated with cultural, social and environmental concerns. The artists figurative compositions represent blood line, which connects ancestral spirits with kin relationships amidst coastal beach and reef imagery. Through supernatural manner, ancestors exist simultaneously with the present-day generation.

Omeenyo's works are currently held in private and public collections both nationally and internationally including National Gallery of Australia, National Gallery of Victoria, Cairns Regional Gallery, University of Queensland Art Museum, Queensland University of Technology Art Museum, International Education Services (IES) and the Thomas Vroom Collection Netherlands.

EXHIBITIONS—SOLO (SELECTED)

2016 Malu (Deep Water) FireWorks Gallery Brisbane

2008 Mepla Sandbeach People Andrew Baker Art Dealer Brisbane

2007 Mepla One (We are one) Emerge Art Space Perth

2007 New Life Niagara Galleries Melbourne

2007 Fiona Omeenyo Hogarth Galleries Sydney

2006 Big Step Andrew Baker Art Dealer Brisbane

2005 Mepla Go Long Way Andrew Baker Art Dealer Brisbane

2005 Mepla Ngaachi Long Way (Our Home is Far Away) Hogarth Galleries Sydney

2004 Journey On Andrew Baker Art Dealer Brisbane

2004 Niagara Galleries Melbourne

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2003 Wunnem Me For Andrew Baker Art Dealer Brisbane
2002 Future Perfect Niagara Galleries Melbourne
2002 Kukiya Hogarth Galleries Sydney
2001 Ngaachi Pathaco (My Home) Hogarth Galleries Sydney
2001 From Here to There Short Street Gallery Broome Western Australia
2001 My Story: Miiku, Parrot Sisters and Kuchuutu Andrew Baker Art Dealer Brisbane

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTED)

2016 She Walks the Line Part 2 FireWorks Gallery Brisbane
2016 Tattersall's Landscape Art Prize Tattersall's Club Brisbane
2014 QLD Gals FireWorks Gallery Brisbane
2014 Melbourne Art Fair Royal Exhibition Building Melbourne
2012 Reunion: New paintings by Samantha Hobson, Rosella Namok and Fiona Omeenyo, Vivien Anderson, Caulfield North, VIC
2007 Our Way: Contemporary Art from Queensland's Lockhart River University of Queensland Art Museum Brisbane and Charles Wang Center Stony Brook University, New York, USA
2007 Looking Forward, Looking Black Kick Arts Cairns
2006 Uncharted Territory October Gallery London England
2006 Histoires de Terre et Mer: Peintures Aborigènes de Lockhart River Australie Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie du Morbihan Lorient France
2006 Lockhart River Art Gang Ewha Art Centre Seoul South Korea
2006 Art for Science Murdoch Research Institute Melbourne
2005 Aboriginal Art Show Booker-Lowe Gallery Houston Texas USA
2005 Group Show Framed Gallery Darwin
2005 Land of Diversity Hogarth Galleries Sydney
2004 Colour Power: Aboriginal art post 1984 National Gallery of Victoria Melbourne
2004 Out of Country Gallery 1601 Washington DC USA and The Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art
2004 Collection of the University of Virginia Charlottesville Virginia USA
2004 Hitting On and Kicking Off Centre of Contemporary Arts/KickArts Cairns Queensland \\\n2004 QUT Art Museum Indigenous Art Collection: Works from the Oodgeroo Collection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Queensland University of Technology Brisbane
2004 Big Country Gondwana Gallery Alice Springs NT
2003 Story Place: Indigenous Art of Cape York and the Rainforest Queensland Art Gallery Brisbane
2003 Contemporary Aboriginal Paintings from Lockhart River Columbus State University Columbus Georgia USA
2003 Kulam Kannga (Beginning): New works by the Lockhart River Art Gang The Kluge- Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of the University of Virginia Charlottesville Virginia USA
2003 Beneath the Monsoon: Visions North of Capricorn Artspace Mackay Cairns Regional Gallery Perc Tucker Regional Gallery (Townsville)
2003 Water: Prints from Lockhart River and the Tiwi Islands Queensland University of Technology Art Museum Brisbane
2002 The Queensland/Berlin Indigenous Art Exhibition Ludwig Erhard Haus Berlin Germany

Collections

ATSIC Collection
Cairns Regional Gallery
Department of Native Title Services

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International Education Services Brisbane
Mater Mothers' Hospital
National Gallery of Australia
National Gallery of Victoria
Northern Territory University
Thomas Vroom Collection Netherlands
Queensland University of Technology Art Museum
University of Queensland Art Museum
Wollongong University

Publications

2007 Bennie, Angela. The old people today are not sure about this abstraction thing, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 18–19 August 2007
2007 Butler, Sally. *Our Way: Contemporary Art from Lockhart River*, University of Queensland Press, St Lucia, 2007
2006 Crawford, Ashley, Fiona Omeenyo: *New Life*, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2006
2006 McCulloch, Alan; McCulloch, Susan; and McCulloch Childs, Emily. *The New McCulloch's Encyclopedia of Australian Art*, Aus Art Editions/The Miegunyah Press, Melbourne, 2006
2003 Helmrich, Michele, Unlocking Lockhart: Young artists are reinventing their culture— and commanding attention in the art world—with their fresh and contemporary painting, *Outback*, Issue 31, Oct/Nov 2003
2003 Martin-Chew, Louise. Tales of the far north: Rare Aboriginal works make a spirited exhibition, *The Weekend Australian*, 26–27 July 2003
2003 Brown, Phil, Life Blood: Lockhart River artist Fiona Omeenyo meditates on kinship and community in her latest sought-after works, *Brisbane News*, 18–24 June 2003
2003 Wilson, Gavin. *Beneath the Monsoon: Visions North of Capricorn*, Artspace Mackay, Queensland [ex. cat.]
2002 Strickland, Katarina. Cape of good hope, *The Weekend Australian*, 20–21 July 2002