

# EVERYWHEN ART

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

### **Rosella Namok**



Birth date: 1979

Birth place: Lockhart River, QLD

Language: Kanthanampu, Aangkum

Rosella Namok was born in 1979 and belongs to the Ungkum-speaking people of east Cape York. She lives and works in the Aboriginal community of Lockhart River, where she is a leading member of the Lockhart River Art Gang. The Art Gang is a group of around 15 artists, mostly under 30 years of age. Much of their work explores the daily life of the community, fishing, hunting, and ancient themes. Based at the Lockhart River Arts and Cultural Centre, Rosella Namok and other members of the Art Gang have attended workshops run by many high-profile artists.

In 1999 Namok drew attention to the Art Gang when she held a near sell-out show at Hogarth Galleries in Sydney. Since then, Namok and other members of the Art Gang (including Fiona Omeenyo, Samantha Hobson and Silas Hobson) have become well known for their accomplished printmaking and bold, large-scale paintings.

Namok's technique involves painting with her fingers, a method derived from the sand drawing style taught to her by her grandmother. This process is important in understanding the relationship between the painting's very tactile and sensual surface and the painting's subject matter. Her paintings make symbolic use of ovals and rectangles, and are often about family relationships and her country's landscape and weather patterns.

In 2010, The Weekend Australian Financial Review's Brook Turner raved about Namok's prodigious talent: 'There had never been a Rosella Namok before Rosella Namok', he said. 'At 20 she burst fully formed onto an indigenous art scene nearing its zenith at the end of the '90s, a young woman in a world ruled by a constellation of late-career masters, many of whom didn't even start painting until retirement age.'

By 22 she had been rated among Australia's 50 most collectable artists by Australian Art Collector. A year later, in 2002, she was on both the magazine's cover and her way into pretty well every major public collection in the country, the highest grossing, biggest-selling artist of her age.'

In a lovely reversal of tradition, Rosella's mother Irene has been inspired by her daughter to produce art and is also now an exhibiting artist.

#### **Solo Exhibitions**

1999 'bout here....Lockhart River, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney NSW

2000 Me come from 'yah, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney NSW

2000 'nother way, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne VIC

2001 Melpa Sarbie Paint, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane QLD

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2001 Ee right this way, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney NSW  
2002 Happen' this way, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane QLD  
2002 Tinta, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney NSW  
2003 Rosella Namok, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne VIC  
2003 Rosella, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney NSW  
2004 Rosella Namok at The Essoign Club, Melbourne VIC  
2004 Rosella Namok, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney NSW  
2004'nother side, October Gallery, London UK  
2004 Kungkay Ma (Up North), Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane QLD  
2005 My Puuya... My Life Essence, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane QLD  
2005 Rosella Namok: New Paintings, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney NSW  
2005 Rosella Namok: New Works, Adele Boag Gallery, Adelaide SA  
2006 Up North, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne VIC  
2006 Rosella Namok, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney NSW  
2007 Sea Country, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney NSW  
2008 Rosella Namok, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne VIC  
2008 From Sand Beach Side, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney NSW  
2008 Ngaachi Bla Mepla, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane QLD  
2009 Rosella Namok, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney NSW  
2011 Rosella Namok and Arone Meeks, Coo-ee Aboriginal Art Gallery, Sydney NSW  
2013 Rosella Namok, Naagchi Ngumu'luugku – I Come from There, Japingka Gallery, Perth WA  
2015 Rosella Namok, Japingka Gallery, Perth WA  
2021 Rosella Namok Recent Paintings, Japingka Gallery, Perth WA  
2022 Rosella Namok - Regrowth, Fireworksgallery, Brisbane, QLD

## Group Exhibitions

1997 Mepla Sarbie Art with the Lockhart River Art Gang, Lockhart River Art and Culture Centre, QLD  
1997 ngana nyllkana – us painting, with the Lockhart River Art Gang, Cairns Regional Gallery, QLD  
1997 Rena Ellen Jones Award, Warrnambool Art Gallery, VIC  
1998 National Indigenous Art of Place Award, Old Parliament House, Canberra ACT  
1998 15th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory and touring  
1999 23rd Biennial of Graphic Art, Ljubljana, Slovenia  
1999 International Works on Paper Fair, Sydney NSW  
1999 Postcard Exhibition, Cairns Regional Gallery, Cairns QLD  
1999 Lockhart River Art Gang 'we searching', Queensland Aboriginal Creations, Brisbane QLD  
1999 Message Stick: Art from North Queensland's Lockhart River Aboriginal Community, Queensland Aboriginal Creations, Brisbane and touring until 2001  
2000 Uncommon World: Aspects of Contemporary Australian Art, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra ACT  
2000 Beyond the Pale: Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art, Art Gallery of South Australia SA  
2000 Fortitude: New Art from Queensland, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane QLD  
2000 Telstra 17th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory and travelling  
2000 The Art of Place-Fifth National Indigenous Heritage Art Award, Old Parliament House, Canberra ACT  
2000 Postcards Exhibition, Cairns Regional Gallery, QLD  
2000 In my eyes: an exhibition of fine art prints by the Lockhart River Art Gang and  
2000 Friends, Cairns Regional Gallery, Queensland  
2000 Olympic Exhibition, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney  
2000 From the Top: Lockhart River- Samantha Hobson & Rosella Namok, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane QLD

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2000 Parma Belong Sandbeach: paintings and prints by the Lockhart River Art Gang, Queensland Aboriginal Creations, Brisbane QLD

2001 Indigenous Highlights from the State Art Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth WA

2001 Postcard Exhibition, Cairns Regional Gallery, QLD

2001 Dreamtime: Zeitgenossische Aboriginal Art, The Dark & the Light, Sammlung, Essl, Klosterneuburg, Austria

2001 Wynne Prize Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney NSW

2001 Lines of Descent: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Prints and Objects, Queensland University of Technology Art Museum, Brisbane QLD

2001 Federation Exhibition: Local Colour, Local Lives, Cairns Regional Gallery QLD

2001 Gatherings, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Brisbane QLD

2001 A Few of my Favourite Things, Fireworks Gallery, Brisbane QLD

2001 In my Eyes: An Exhibition of Fine Art Prints by the Lockhart River Art Gang and Friends, Vera Scarth-Johnson Gallery, Cooktown QLD

2002 Wild Nature in Contemporary Australian Art and Craft, Jam Factory, Adelaide SA

2002 Indecorous Abstraction: Contemporary Women Painters, Light Square Gallery, Adelaide SA

2002 Indigenous Highlights from the Sate Art Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth WA

2002 Cape York Indigenous Art Showcase Exhibition (inaugural Berlin exhibition), Ludwig Erhard Haus, Berlin, Germany

2002 Collectible Aboriginal Art Event, Raintree Aboriginal Fine Art Gallery, Darwin NT

2002 International Women's Day Event, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne VIC

2002 New Ground, Main Street Gallery, Adelaide SA

2003 Story Place, Indigenous Art of Cape York and the Rainforest, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane QLD

2003 The Art Gang: Contemporary Aboriginal Painting, Columbus State University, Georgia USA

2003 Icons that Build a Collection, Cairns Regional Art Gallery QLD

2003 Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award 2003, Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory, Darwin NT

2003 Beneath the Monsoon: Visions North of Capricorn, Artspace Mackay, Cairns Regional Gallery, Cairns QLD

2003 Perc Tucker Regional Gallery

2003 Water: Prints from Lockhart River and the Tiwi Islands, Queensland University of Technology ArtMuseum, Brisbane QLD

2004 Out of Country, Gallery 1601, Washington DC, USA

2005 Aboriginal Dreaming, European Discovery, Australian Embassy, Paris FRANCE

2005 Kungkay, Lockhart River Art Gang, Gallery Gondwana, Alice Springs, Northern Territory

2005 Dugongs of Hinchinbrook II, KickArts Gallery CoCa, Cairns QLD

2005 Cairns NAIDOC Exhibition 2005, Tanks Art Centre, Cairns QLD

2005 Affinities, NAIDOC Exhibition, ABC Ultimo, Sydney NSW

2006 Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne VIC

2006 Dreaming Their Way: Australian Aboriginal Women Painters, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, USA and touring

2007 Arte Indigena dall'Australia: Contemporary Indigenous Art of the Lockhart River Art Gang Queensland, Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna, Palazzo Collicola, Spoleto, ITALY

2007 Our Way: Contemporary Aboriginal Art from Lockhart River, The University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane; National University of Singapore, Singapore; Charles Wand Center, Stony Brook University, New York, USA; The Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, USA

2008 Auckland Art Fair, New Zealand

2008 From Cape to Cove, Holmes à Court Gallery, Perth WA

2008 The Women's Show, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne VIC

2009 Twelve Degrees of Latitude: Regional Gallery and University Art Collections in Queensland

2009 Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Queensland and touring

2009 10th Anniversary Exhibition, Ipswich Art Gallery, Queensland

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2010 Inaugural exhibition, New Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Galleries, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra ACT

2010 Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, Tanks Art Centre, Cairns QLD

2011 Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, Tanks Art Centre, Cairns QLD

2016 Rosella Namok & Lockhart River Painters, Japingka Gallery, Perth WA

2017 20/20 A Sense of Place, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC

2018 Fiona Omeenyo & Rosella Namok, Japingka Gallery, Perth WA

2019 On the Coast – The Art of Fiona Omeenyo & Rosella Namok, Japinga Gallery, Perth WA

2019 Across the Top, Art Mob, Hobart

2019 Overcoming Adversity, Art Mob, Hobart

2019 Winter Salon, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC

2019 Lunar Legacy, Art Mob, Hobart

2020 Across the Top 2020, Art Mob, Hobart

2020 Lockhart Art Gang – Sharing Our Stories, Kate Owen Gallery, Sydney

2020 Twelve Ways, Fireworks Gallery, Brisbane

2020 Twelve Artists, Fireworks Gallery, Brisbane

2020 Top Ten – Our Most Popular Artists 2019, Kate Owen Gallery, Sydney

2020 Blue July, Fireworks Gallery, Brisbane

2020 Summer Collector's Show 2020, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC

2020 Black & White 2020, Fireworks Gallery, Brisbane

2021 Which Way? Fireworks Gallery, Brisbane

2021 Across the Top 2021, Art Mob, Hobart

2021 Mid-Winter Mofo, Art Mob, Hobart

2021 Lockhart Legends II, Kate Owen Gallery, Sydney

2021 Gold at Lockhart River, Art Mob, Hobart

2021 Rosella Namok & Fiona Omeenyo: Sandbeach People, Artspace Mackay, Mackay QLD

2021 The Women's Show | 15th Anniversary Exhibition, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne'

2023 A Day at the Beach | Lockhart River artists, Art Mob, Hobart

2022 Painting Words, Coee Gallery, Redfern

2022 Lockhart River Art Centre Group Exhibition, Kate Owen Gallery, Sydney

2022 Colour Pop, Kate Owen Gallery, Sydney

2022 The Women's Show 2022, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne

2022 Art Mob's 20th Birthday Exhibition, Art Mob, Hobart

2022 RAG Collection feature artists: Bindur Bullin and Rosella Namok, Redland Art Gallery, Redland QLD

2022 RAG Collection Showcase, Redland Art Gallery, Redland QLD

2021 Kincha Ngampulungku | My Tradition, My Culture, Art Mob, Hobart

## Awards

1997 Rena Allen Jones Award, Warrnambool Art Gallery

1998 15th NATSIAA Awards Finalist

1999 Cape York Art Awards Laura Festival 2nd Prize

1999 Memento Awards – Most innovative product by an indigenous artist

1999 Young Australian of the Year (arts) nomination

2000 17th NATSIAA Awards Finalist

2000 The Fifth National Indigenous Heritage Art Award – Lin Onus Youth Award

2001 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW Finalist

2003 20th NATSIAA Finalist

2003 Redlands Westpac Art Prize Winner

2004 High Court of Australia Centenary Art Award

2004 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales Finalist

2020 Sunshine Coast Art Prize Finalist

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### Collections

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth ATSI Collection, Canberra  
Australian Heritage Commission, Canberra  
Cairns Regional Gallery, Queensland  
Department of Environment and Heritage, Canberra Federal Court of Australia, Brisbane  
Flinders University, Adelaide  
High Court of Australia, Canberra  
Macquarie Bank, Sydney  
Macquarie University, Sydney  
Monash University, Melbourne  
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra  
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne Northern Territory University, Darwin Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane  
Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane University of Queensland, Brisbane Warrnambool Art Gallery, Victoria  
Wollongong University, New South Wales

### Bibliography

#### CATALOGUES/BOOKS

Bettina MacAulay and Brett Adlington, *Twelve Degrees of Latitude: Regional Gallery and University Art Collections in Queensland*, exhibition catalogue, Museum and Gallery Services Queensland Limited, Brisbane 2009  
Ihor Holubizky, 'Radical regionalism, local knowledge and making places', *Radical Regionalism: Local Knowledge and Making Places*, exhibition catalogue, Museum London, London, 2008  
Susan McCulloch and Emily McCulloch Childs, *McCulloch's Contemporary Aboriginal Art: the complete guide*, McCulloch and McCulloch, Melbourne, 2008  
Sonia Payes, *Untitled: Portraits of Australian Artists*, Macmillan Publishing, Melbourne, 2007  
R. Ian Lloyd and John McDonald, *Studio: Australian Painters on the Nature of Creativity*, R. Ian Lloyd Productions, Sydney, 2007  
Sally Butler, *Our Way: Contemporary Aboriginal Art from Lockhart River*, University of Queensland Press, Brisbane, 2007  
Alan McCulloch, Susan McCulloch and Emily McCulloch Childs, *McCulloch's Encyclopedia of Australian Art*, 4th Edition, Aus Art Editions, Melbourne, 2006  
Jenepher Duncan and Linda Michael (eds), *Monash University Collection: Four Decades of Collecting*, Monash University Museum of Art, 2002  
melpa sarbie paint, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane, 2001  
Michael Eather (ed), *Dreamtime: Zeitgenossische Aboriginal Art / The Dark and the Light*, exhibition catalogue, Sammlung Essl, Austria, 2001  
Marion Demozay (ed), *Gatherings: Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art from Queensland Australia*, Keeaira Press, Queensland, 2001  
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Dr Michael Brand, 'My country and people' in Fortitude: New Art from Queensland, Queensland Art Gallery, 2000

Brenda Croft, Beyond the Pale: Contemporary Indigenous Art, Art Gallery Board of South Australia, Adelaide, 2000

Message Stick: Art from North Queensland's Lockhart River Aboriginal Community, Visions Australia, 1999

Ron and Anne Edwards and the Lockhart River Gang, An Explorer's Guide to Lockhart River, The Rams Skull Press, Kuranda, Queensland, 1997

## ARTICLES/REVIEWS

Courtney Kidd, 'A disciplined eye', Australian Art Collector, Issue 47, January – March 2009

Ashleigh Wilson, 'Collector demonstrates fine art of giving', The Australian, 30 September 2008

'Recommended exhibitions in Melbourne: Rosella Namok', MutualArt.com, August 2008 Tricia Fitzgerald, 'The Art Gang: artists of the Lockhart River community', Artbeat, Autumn 2008

David Nason, 'Aboriginal art's brush with the big apple', The Australian, 23 October 2007 Aboriginal art and culture: an American Eye, [www.homepage.mac.com/will\\_owen/iblog/](http://www.homepage.mac.com/will_owen/iblog/), 19 May 2007

Lockhart River's Worldly Indigenous Art, Sally Butler, Eyeline 63, May 2007

Rosemary Sorensen, 'Saved by the brush', The Weekend Australian Review, 5 May 2007 Rebecca Cavalôt, 'Art Matters: Interview with Rosella Namok', Destinations Australia, 2006/07

Rosemary Sorensen, 'Art of the matter', The Courier Mail, 25 February 2006

Patrick Hutchings, 'Up North: Rosella Namok', The Age, 21 January 2006

Felicity Allen, 'Indigenous art prices ruNamok', The Herald Sun, 21 February, 2003 Georgina Safe, 'Selling out paintings... but not her heritage', The Australian, 11 February 2003

Tim Morrell, 'The Lockhart River Gang', Artlink, Vol 22 No.3, 2002

Dr Rex Butler, 'Rosella's choice', Australian Art Collector, Issue 21, 2002

Roz Pulley, 'Cape art makes capital gains', The Cairns Post Weekend Extra, 9 November, 2002

Art Monthly (front cover), October 2002

'Stunning success for Gang member', Wentworth Courier, 31 July 2002

Sue Neales, 'Burning Bright', The Australian Financial Review Magazine, July 2002 Sandra McLean, 'Star shines at opening', The Courier Mail, 1 May 2002

Courtney Kidd, 'Layered stories, told at full speed', The Sydney Morning Herald, 1 August 2001

Susan McCulloch-Uehlin, 'Water Marks', The Weekend Australian Review, 21-22 July 2001

Lisa Yallamas, 'A brush with fame and fortune', The Courier Mail, 8 June 2001

Phil Brown, 'Natural talent: works by an upcoming artist are a breath of fresh air', Brisbane News, June 2001

Michael Hutak, 'Australia's 50 Most Collectable Artists: Rosella Namok', Australian Art Collector, Issue 15, 2001

Susan McCulloch-Uehlin, 'Dreamtime finds a home in Austria', The Australian, 9 February 2001

Debra Aldred, 'Listing boosts the state of her art', The Courier Mail, 15 January 2001

Anna King Murdoch, 'tradition maintained', The Age, 14 November 2000

Benjamin Genocchio, 'Olympic tourists after the real thing', The Australian, 6 October 2000

Debra Aldred, 'Bridging the cultural divide', The Courier Mail, 19 August 2000

Gerladine O'Brien, 'Heritage Awards: Sugarbag Man's winning tale', Sydney Morning Herald, 17 August 2000

Sally Butler, 'Start now!: A Guide to the Aboriginal Art Market: North Queensland and Torres Strait Islands', Australian Art Collector, Issue 13, 2000

Andrew Frost, 'Previews: Rosella Namok', Australian Art Collector, Issue 12, 2000

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Madeline Burbidge, 'The Art Gang', Arts Yarn Up: Australia Council for the Arts Magazine, Winter 2000

Rox Pulley, 'Talent unlocked', The Cairns Post Weekend Extra, 10 June, 2000

Peter Anderson, 'Galleries', The Courier Mail, 31 May 2000

Louise Martin-Chew, 'Mastery of medium and matter', The Australian, 26 May 2000

Susan McCulloch-Uehlin, 'Mind the gap', The Weekend Australian Review, 18-19 March 2000

Sally Butler, 'Undiscovered, unmasked: Artists for a new millenium', Australian Art Collector, Issue 8, 1999