

BRENDA L. CROFT

Born in Perth, Western Australia in 1964, Brenda L Croft is of the Gurindji/Mutpurra people. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Photography) from the Sydney College of the Arts in 1985. In 1995 she completed a Masters of Art Administration at the University of Sydney. Croft has held numerous solo exhibitions and has been included in group exhibitions in Australia and overseas. She was a founding board member of the Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative. Concurrent to her art practice, Brenda has been involved in curating and writing activities, and she is currently senior curator of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art at the National Gallery of Australia.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2009 *She'll Be Right Mate: Strangers in a Strange Land*, Greenaway Art Gallery, Adelaide
- 2008 *Half Light: Portraits from Black Australia*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2007 *Walk, Talk and Chalk*, The City Gallery, Melbourne
- 2006 *Peripheral Vision*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2005 *Peripheral Vision*, Artplace, Perth
- 2004 *Man About Town*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2003 *Man About Town*, Stills Gallery, Sydney
- 2002 *Terra/Terror Australis*, Stills Gallery, Sydney (satellite exhibition for Biennale of Sydney)
- 2001 *In My Father's House*, fundraiser for Joseph and Lindsay Croft Scholarship, Stills Gallery, Sydney
- 2000 *Fever (you give me)*, Stills Gallery, Sydney
- 1999 *In My Mother's Garden*, John Curtin Gallery, Curtin University of Technology, Perth
In My Father's House, Visions Australia national tour
- 1998 *In My Mother's Garden*, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne
In My Father's House, Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney
- 1994 *Strange Fruit*, The Performance Space, Sydney
- 1993 *The Big Deal Is Black*, Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 *The New New*, SASA Gallery with the Contemporary Art Centre of South Australia, Adelaide
Beleura National Works on Paper, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Victoria
- 2009 *Homeland (Heimat)*, Contemporary Art Centre of South Australia, Adelaide
Visual Sovereignty: International Indigenous Photography, CN Gorman Museum, California, USA
Bite: recent additions to the Flinders University City Gallery, Flinders University City Gallery, Adelaide
There goes the neighbourhood, Performance Space@Carriageworks, Sydney
2009 Fundraising preview exhibition dinner & auction, Monash Gallery of Art, Victoria
Black & white: documenting Indigenous Australia, Monash Gallery of Art, Victoria
- 2008 *Half light: Portraits from Black Australia*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Skin deep: fundraiser for Gary Lee, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra
Lines in the Sand: Botany Bay Stories from 1770, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Art Centre, New South Wales
- 2007 *Brilliance: a world of shimmer, rarrk and glitter*, Aboriginal Art Museum, Utrecht, the Netherlands
Celebrating Aboriginal Rights?, Macquarie University Art Gallery, Sydney
Boomali, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Indigenous responses to colonialism: Another story Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide
- 2006 *Light sensitive: contemporary Australian photography from the Loti Smorgon Fund*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
- 2005 *Points of view: Australian photography 1985 – 1995*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

- NSW Parliament House Indigenous Art Prize*, Parliament House, Sydney
Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Award, Gold Coast Arts Centre, Queensland
22nd Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin
- 2004 *Images*, Aboriginal Art Museum, Utrecht, The Netherlands
Witness, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
In Focus: 5 Contemporary Women Photo-Artists, Campbelltown City Art Gallery, New South Wales
- 2003 *20th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award*, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin
Bayagul: contemporary Indigenous communication, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
Australiens, Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, Perth
COFA: An Indigenous presence, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
Fieldwork: Australian Art 1968–2002, NGV Australia, Melbourne
- 2002 *Photographica Australis*, ARCO Spanish International Contemporary Art Fair, Madrid
Imagining identity and place, Grafton Regional Gallery, New South Wales
High Tide, Linden Arts Centre, Melbourne
19th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin
Exposed! Message Sticks: A Celebration Of Contemporary Indigenous Arts, Sydney Opera House, Sydney
- 2001 *18th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award*, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin and touring
hybrid<life>forms: Australian New Media Art, Netherlands Media Art Institute, Amsterdam
Imagining Identity and Place, Grafton Regional Gallery, New South Wales and touring
Pinhole to Pixel, Stills Gallery at the Sir Hermann Black Gallery, University of Sydney, New South Wales
- 2000 *Das Lied Von Der Erde (The Song of the Earth)*, Museum Fridericianum, Kassel, Germany
- 1999 *_PROBE_ Explorations Into Australian Computational Space: An Exhibition Of Australian New Media Arts*, Australian Embassy, Beijing, China
Y2K6 Six Systems For Protecting Your Future, Casula Powerhouse Regional Arts Centre, Sydney (Australian Perspecta, 1999)
Experimenta Media Arts Time Capsule ...The Future Is The Present Span Galleries, Melbourne
Beyond Myth/ Oltre il Mito, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, a latere section of the 48th Venice Biennale, Melbourne
16th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin and touring
Signs of Life: Melbourne International Biennial, Melbourne
- 1998 *Retake*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra and touring
15th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin and touring
National Digital Art Award, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane
Fremantle Print Award, Fremantle Arts Centre, Western Australia
- 1997 *First Person Plural: Contemporary Australian Aboriginal Art*, Betty Rymer Gallery, The School of Art Institute of Chicago, United States of America
Native Titled Now, Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide and touring
Guwanyj: Stories of the Redfern Aboriginal Community, Museum of Sydney, New South Wales
- 1996 *Abstracts: New Aboriginalities*, Watershed Bristol and regional tour, England
Sixteen Songs: Issues of Personal Assessment and Indigenous Renewal Hachivi Edgar
Heap of Birds and artists of Tandanya and Boomalli, Saint Louis Art Museum, United States of America
Big New Sites, The Performance Space, Sydney and touring in conjunction with Pearl and Dean Advertising
Quay Works, Sydney Opera House Concourse, Sydney Festival, New South Wales

- 1995 *True Colours: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artists Raise the Flag*, Boomalli and The Performance Space, Sydney and touring
Mistaken Identities: AFRICUS Johannesburg Biennale, Johannesburg, South Africa
Re:actions, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
 Haus Der Kulturen Der Welt, Berlin, Germany
- 1994 *Sydney Photographed*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
Urban Artyfacts, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
Urban Focus: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art From The Urban Areas Of Australia, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
True Colours, Bluecoat Gallery, Liverpool; Leicester Gallery; South London Gallery, England
Perpetual Motion, Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide and touring
Conference Call with Adrian Piper, Camerawork Gallery, London, Britain
- 1993 *Wiyana/Perisferia (Periphery)*, The Performance Space, Sydney (satellite exhibition of the 9th Biennale of Sydney)
Continuity: /ANCAAAA/Desart/Boomalli, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative and The Performance Space, Sydney
Dream Time, Budapest Autumn Festival, Hungary
Conference Call with Adrian Piper, *The Boundary Rider: 9th Biennale of Sydney*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 1991 *Kudjeris*, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
Boomalli Annual Members Exhibition, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
- 1989 *Boomalli Breaking Boundaries*, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
A Koori Perspective, Artspace, Sydney (Australian Perspectives 1989)
40,000 + 4, Bondi Pavilion, Sydney
Eurobla, The Tin Sheds Gallery, University of Sydney, Sydney
- 1988 *Inside Black Australia*, curated by Kevin Gilbert for Treaty '88 Campaign
De Facto Apartheid, The Performance Space, Sydney
ANCAAAA-Boomalli, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
- 1987 *Boomalli Au-go-go*, Inaugural exhibition, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
- 1986 *Contemporary Aboriginal and Islander Photography*, NAIDOC Week, Aboriginal Artists Gallery, Sydney
Women's War and Peace Exhibition, Pier 4/5, Millers Point, Sydney

ARTIST'S TALKS

- 2011 *Stop (the) Gap / Mind (the) Gap: International Indigenous Art in Motion*, panel discussion featuring artists and curators, University of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2010 discussion with Dr David Hansen and Tony Brown about the stigmas surrounding indigenous art, the Wheeler Centre, Melbourne

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2001 *Adelaide Airport International Airport* initial concept design
Alumni Award, University of NSW, Sydney
Gordon Darling Global Travel Grant, through the Art Gallery of Western Australia. Travelled to Aotearoa/New Zealand, Canada, the USA and Britain
- 2000 *Wuganmagulya (Farm Cove)* at Royal Botanic Gardens for Sydney Sculpture Walk and City of Sydney Sydney International Airport Public Art Commission
- 1998 *New Work*, Visual Arts/Crafts Fund, Australia Council
Indigenous Arts Fellowship, NSW Ministry for the Arts
 Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts/Edith Cowan University (Perth), Australia Council Partnership
- 1996-7 *Greene Street Studio*, New York, Visual Arts/Craft Fund Australia Council
- 1996 *Chicago Artists International Program*, Ethnic Communities Exchange Program, United States of America
- 1993 *NOMAD Studio*, Banff Centre for the Arts Alberta, Canada
New Work, Visual Arts/Crafts Fund, Australia Council

CURATORIAL

2011 *Stop (the) Gap: International Indigenous Art in Motion*, Samstag Museum of Art, Adelaide
Looking Forward / Looking Back: Indigenous Identity in Australian Cinema, a program of films screening at the University of South Australia, Adelaide

COLLECTIONS

Aboriginal Art Museum, Utrecht, Netherlands
Artbank, Sydney
Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
Department of Environment Australia
Edith Cowan University, Perth
Flinders University Art Museum, Adelaide
John Curtin Gallery, Curtin University of Technology, Western Australia
Jumbunna, University of Technology, Sydney
Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne
Murdoch University Art Collection, Perth
Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
National Library of Australia
Powerhouse Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney
Power Institute, University of Sydney, Sydney
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
State Library of New South Wales, Sydney
University of Canberra

PUBLICATIONS

Brenda Croft, 'Don't go kissing at the garden gate', *Artlink*, vol 31 no.3, 2011
Brenda Croft, 'Sell-Abrasion of Our Nations', *Artlink*, vol 31 no. 2, 2011
'SASA Gallery Artist: Brenda L Croft', *CASA Contemporary 2010: The New New Free Guide*, 29 October – 21 November, 2010
Blair French and Daniel Palmer, *Twelve Australian Photo Artists*, Piper Press, New South Wales, 2009
Lines in the Sand: Botany Bay Stories from 1770, exhibition catalogue, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Art Centre, New South Wales, 2008
Sonia Payes, *Untitled: Portraits of Australian Artists*, Macmillan Publishing, Melbourne, 2007
Tradition Today: Indigenous art in Australia, Art Gallery of New South Wales, 2004
Blair French, 'Brenda L. Croft: Of Shadow and Light', *Witness*, exhibition catalogue, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, 2005
Annette van Ham, *Images*, Aboriginal Art Museum Utrecht, The Netherlands, 2004
Ian McLean, 'New Histories of Australian Art: South West Central Indigenous Art from south Western Australia 1833-2002', *Art Monthly*, April, pp 18-21, 2003
Ted Snell, 'Celebration of survival', *The Weekend Australian*, February 15 2003
Joanna Mendelssohn, 'Making histories of Australian art reviews', *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Art: Globalization*, Vol 3 Number 2, p 120, 2002
Photographica Australis, ARCO Madrid, Spain, curated by Alisdair Foster for the Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney, 2002
Mark Mordue, 'Road Dreaming: Romancing the road', *The Weekend Australian*, November 16 2003
Sharon Verghis, 'Indigenous art stereotypes a bark up the wrong tree', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, p 12, 2002
Victoria Laurie, 'Black and white', *The Weekend Australian*, October 19 2002
Ted Snell, 'Exalted harvest', *The Weekend Australian*, October 19 2002
Fieldwork: Australian Art 1968–2002, National Gallery of Victoria, 2002

8TH Festival of Pacific Arts, *ICAM*, Series 10, Episode 1, SBS-TV, 25 January 2001

'17th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award', *The Arts Show*, ABC TV, 5 October 2000

Linda Michael, *Das Lied Von Der Erde (The Song of the Earth)*, Museum Fridericianum, Kassel, Germany, 2000

Michael Fitzgerald, 'Renewing the country', *Time*, p 67, April 3 2000

Nicholas Thomas, 'Utopia is a certain place', *Transitions: 17 years of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award*, pp 51-7, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, 2000

John Kean, 'Political theatre', *Artlink*, Vol 20 No 1, p 68, 2000

Christine Nicholls, 'Indigenous Australian art and the stolen generation', *Artlink*, pp 36 – 39, Vol 20 No 1, 2000

Humphrey McQueen, 'Art can reveal but never resolve', *Art Monthly*, pp 5 – 7, issue 128, 2000

Arena magazine: Living Indigenous Nations, No. 45, February, 2000 (front cover artwork)

Louise Nunn, 'Festival focus on ancient culture', *The Advertiser*, p 3, 5 May 1999

Hetti Perkins, 'Right Beside You: Brenda L Croft' in Joan Kerr and Jo Holder, *past PRESENT: The National Women's Art Anthology*, p 110, Craftsman House, Sydney, 1999

'Curator draws attention to bias', *Guardian Express*, p 12, May 18 1999

Howard Morphy, *Aboriginal Art*, Phaidon Press, London, 1999

Bruce James, 'Festival's king hit', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, p 12, 11 March 1999

Joanna Mendelssohn, 'A sorry story', *The Bulletin*, pp 92-3, March 21 1999

Paul Lloyd, 'Contemporary challenge', *Adelaide Advertiser*, p 42, 26 February 1999

Lisa Marie Tan, *The Arts Magazine*, Singapore, January 1999

Michael Billington, 'Feast for the eyes', *The Guardian*, 8 March 1999

Joanna Mendelssohn, 'Holistic view', *The Bulletin*, pp 68 – 70, 16 March 1999

Penny Webb, 'Reading between the lines', *The Age*, p 16, Entertainment Guide, 20 November 1998

Deborah Stone, 'The gardens of life', *The Age*, p 20, Arts and Entertainment, 23 November, 1998

Kelly Gellatly, 'Photography and Family', *Art Monthly*, no 113, pp 20-21, September 1998

Indigenous Law Bulletin, Indigenous Law Centre, University of NSW, 1998 (cover artwork)

Art Almanac, 1 July 1998 (cover artwork)

Paula Aboud, 'Landscapes of loss and memory', *Periphery*, pp 17-20, no. 36, Spring, 1998

Antonia Carver, 'It's about time', *make*, pp 13-14, No. 76, Britain, June 1997

Russell Storer, 'A fluent career', *Tharunka*, Vol 43, Issue 7, p 30, June, 1997

Andrew Dewdney, 'Deliberate acts of cultural translation', *Third Text: Third World Perspectives of Contemporary Art and Culture*, pp 92-5, Vol 35, Summer, 1996

Phillipa Goodall, *Abstracts: New Aboriginalities*, South West Aboriginal Print Project (SWAPP), Britain

Hetti Perkins, 'Strange Fruit: The photographic art of Brenda L Croft', *Art and Asia Pacific*, Vol 3 No 1, p 90, 1996

Jo Holder, 'True Colours', *Art and Asia Pacific*, Vol 2 No. 2, pp 115-6, 1995

Anthony Bond, 'Mistaken Identities', *Africus: Johannesburg Biennale '95*, South Africa, 1994

Piers Masterson, 'Adrian Piper and Brenda Croft at Camerwork', *Art Monthly Britain*, pp 32-3, July 1994

Linda Michael, 'Sydney Photographed', *Sydney Photographed*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, 1994

Darlene Johnson, 'Strange Fruit', *Agenda*, No 38, 1993

Andrew Dewdney and Sandra Phillips (ed.), 'Brenda Croft: Controlling our own images', *Racism, Representation and Photography*, pp 117 – 126, Sydney: Inner City Education Centre, 1993

Lisa Belleair, 'The big deal is black', *Photofile*, pp 19-22, No 40, November 1993

Joanna Mendelssohn, 'Urban Dreamtime', *The Bulletin*, 9 November 1993

Wally Caruana, 'Aboriginal Art', *World of Art*, pp 166, 1992

Joanna Mendelssohn, 'Collusion course', *The Bulletin*, p 78, 22 December 1992