

## FIONA OMEENYO

Born in Lockhart River, Queensland in 1981, Fiona Omeenyo came to national prominence as a member of the Lockhart River Art Gang. She has since gone on to participate in numerous exhibitions in Australia and overseas and continues to find new ways of expressing her stories on canvas.

Language group: Umpila.

### SOLO EXHIBITONS

- 2007 *New Life*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne  
2005 *Melpa Go Long Way*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane  
2004 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne  
*Journey On*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane  
2003 *Wunnem Me For*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane  
2002 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne  
*Kukiya*, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney  
2001 *Story: Miiku, Parrot Sisters and Kuchuutu*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane  
*From Here to There*, Short Street Gallery, Broome, Western Australia  
*Ngaachi Pathaco (My Home)*, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2009 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne  
2008 *From Cape to Cove*, Holmes a Court Gallery, Perth  
*The Women's Show*, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne  
*Bal Tashchit: Thou Shalt Not Destroy*, The Jewish Museum of Australia, Melbourne  
2007 Hogarth Galleries, Sydney  
*Arte Indigena Dall'Australia: Contemporary Indigenous Art of the Lockhart River Art Gang Queensland*, Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna, Palazzo Collicola, Spoleto, Italy  
2006 *Art for Science*, Murdoch Research Institute, Melbourne  
2004 *Out of Country*, Gallery 1601, Washington DC, United States of America and touring  
*Hitting on and Kicking Off*, Centre of Contemporary Arts, Cairns  
2003 *The Art Gang: Contemporary Aboriginal Painting*, Columbus State University, Georgia, United States of America  
*Ngaachi Ngampula (Our Country)*, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney  
*Artworks from FNQ + Torres Strait Islands*, Artworkers Alliance, Brisbane  
*Moon: One Icon, Many Stories*, Short Street Gallery, Broome, Western Australia and Arthouse Gallery, Sydney  
*Kulam Kannga (Beginning): New Works by the Lockhart River Art Gang*, The Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of the University of Virginia, Virginia, United States of America  
*Beneath the Monsoon: Visions North of Capricorn*, Artspace Mackay, Cairns Regional Gallery, Perc Tucker Regional Gallery (Townsville)  
*Water: Prints from Lockhart River and the Tiwi Islands*, Queensland University of Technology Art Museum, Brisbane

- 2003 (cont.) *Lockhart River Gang*, Gallery Gondwana, Alice Springs
- 2002 *The Queensland/Berlin Indigenous Art Exhibition*, Ludwig Erhard Haus, Berlin, Germany  
*Message Stick: Journey's End*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane  
*In Language* (A Cathedrals Week Exhibition), Ann Street Church of Christ, Brisbane  
*New Ground*, Main Street Gallery, Adelaide  
*International Women's Day Event*, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne  
Cape York Art Awards Exhibition, Laura Festival, Queensland  
*Laura Award Winners Exhibition*, Cairns Regional Gallery, Queensland 2001  
*Federation Exhibition: Local Colour, Local Lives*, Cairns Regional Gallery, Queensland
- 2001 *Postcard Exhibition*, Cairns Regional Gallery, Queensland  
*Gatherings*, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Brisbane
- 2000 *Pama Belong Sandbeach*, Queensland Aboriginal Creations, Brisbane  
*Fifth National Indigenous Art of Place Award*, Old Parliament House, Canberra  
*In my Eyes*, Cairns Regional Gallery, Queensland  
*Message Stick*, Lockhart River Aboriginal Community Arts and Cultural Centre, Queensland and touring
- 1999 *We Searching*, Queensland Aboriginal Creations, Brisbane  
*Postcard Exhibition*, Cairns Regional Gallery, Queensland  
*International Works on Paper Fair*, Sydney
- 1998 *Message Stick*, Queensland Aboriginal Creations, Brisbane

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

### BOOKS/CATALOGUES

- Melissa Amore and Ashley Crawford, 'Let there be life', *Bal Tashchit: Thou Shalt Not Destroy*, (exhibition catalogue), The Jewish Museum of Australia, Melbourne, 2008
- Ashley Crawford, 'Fiona Omeeny', *New Life*, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2007
- Lockhart River Art Gang, *The Message Stick: Art from North Queensland's Lockhart River Aboriginal Community*, 1999 (exhibition catalogue)
- Marion Demozay (ed), *Gatherings: Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art from Queensland Australia*, Keeaira Press, Southport, 2001

### ARTICLES/REVIEWS

- 'Bal tashchit – thou shalt not destroy', *Destiny – Magazine of the Melbourne Hebrew Congregation*, issue 9, April – September 2008
- Tricia Fitzgerald, 'The Art Gang: artists of the Lockhart River community', *Artbeat*, autumn 2008
- Melissa Amore and Ashley Crawford, 'Let There Be Life', *Jewish Museum of Australia Journal*, vol 13. no.1, March 2008
- 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
- Louise Mart-Chew, 'Tales of the Far North: Rare Aboriginal works make a spirited exhibition', *The Weekend Australian*, 26 July 2003
- Susan McCulloch, Dream Weavers: Artists reap the benefits, *The Weekend Australian*, 19 July 2003
- Heidi Maier, 'Family ties in frame', *The Courier Mail*, June 9 2003
- Heidi Maier, 'Travelling north', *The Courier Mail*, February 15 2003

Tim Morrell, 'The Lockhart River Art Gang', *Artlink*, vol. 22 no. 3. 2002  
Roz Pulley, 'Cape art makes capital gains', *The Cairns Post*, 9 November 2002  
Sue Neale, 'Burning bright', *The Australian Financial Review Magazine*, July 2002  
Katarina Strickland, 'Cape of good hope', *The Weekend Australian*, 20 July 2002  
Cameron Forbes, 'Tribal home is where the art is', *The Weekend Australian*, 13 April 2002  
Cathy Prior, 'River artists run with inspiration', *The Australian*, 19 December 2001  
Phil Brown, 'New Frontier: Fiona Omeenyo's enchanting works take viewers into her wonderful world', *Brisbane News*, 10 October 2001  
Susan McCulloch-Uehlin, 'Smart Art: Fiona Omeenyo', *Australian Art Collector*, issue 18 October 2001  
Sandra Mc Lean, 'Show and tell', *The Courier Mail*, 3 October 2001  
Susan McCulloch-Uehlin, 'Water marks', *The Weekend Australian*, 21 July 2001  
Bruce James, Arts Today (interview), *ABC Radio National*, 17 July 2001  
*Coast to Coast*, ABC Television, 7 July 2001  
'Laura Festival', *Coast to Coast*, ABC Television, 5 August 2001  
Madeleine Burbidge, 'The Art Gang, arts yarn up', *Australia Council for the Arts*, Winter 2000

#### **AWARDS / COMMISSIONS**

2001            1<sup>ST</sup> Prize, Painting, Cape York Art Awards, Laura Festival, Queensland  
2001            Short listed for an artwork commission for the new State Government  
                  Office Building in Cairns, Queensland  
1999            1<sup>st</sup> Prize, Works on Paper, Cape York Art Awards, Laura Festival,  
                  Queensland

#### **COLLECTIONS**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Commission, Canberra  
Cairns Regional Gallery, Queensland  
Department of Native Title Services, Queensland  
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne  
Northern Territory University, Darwin  
Thomas Vroom Collection, The Netherlands  
Wollongong University, New South Wales  
Private collections in Australia and overseas