

Water: Prints from Lockhart River and Tiwi Islands



Janice Murray born 1966
Aboriginal, Tiwi language group
Yirra tokwampini (Two birds) 1997
Etching and aquatint
Purchased 1998 with the assistance of the
Visual Arts/Craft Fund of the Australia Council

Water plays a

major role in the lives of the people of Lockhart River in Queensland and the Tiwi Islands in the Northern Territory. In the wet season, Lockhart River is isolated from the rest of the state, unreachable by road. The Tiwi Islands are always physically isolated from the rest of the Territory. Both communities can and regularly do find themselves feeling the full force of savage cyclones. The ocean provides both communities with a diversity of creatures, as does the natural freshwater springs, creeks and rivers. Water is pivotal to Lockhart River and the Tiwi Islands as a both a source of regeneration and destruction, as a source of food and leisure activities, and as a location for numerous traditional stories.



Freda Warlapinni born c1928
 Aboriginal, Tiwi language group
Tiwi motif XI 1998
 Colour screenprint on black paper
 (second state)
 Purchased 1998 with the assistance of
 the Visual Arts/Craft Fund of the
 Australia Council

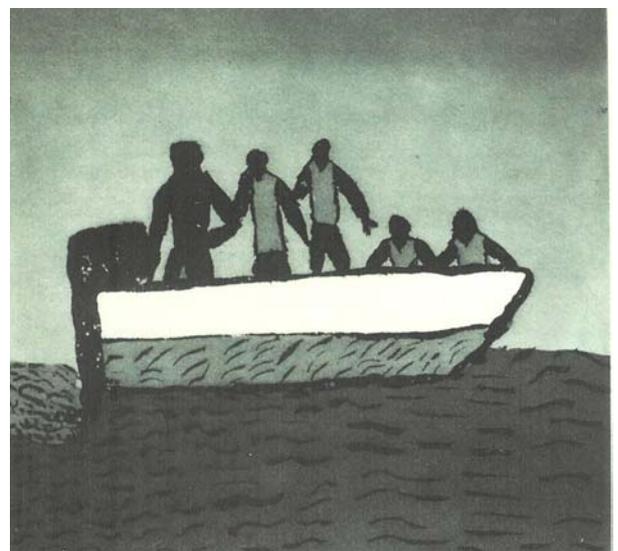
The Tiwi Islands

The Tiwi Islands, some 100km north of Darwin, are comprised of Bathurst Island and Melville Island. The Tiwi creation story explains how the land that forms the islands was separated from the mainland, and in turn divided into the two islands. Tiwi culture is an oral culture, and unlike many other indigenous communities Tiwi does not have traditional representations of animals and spirits. The traditional designs used in painting and printmaking are based primarily on body paint design. Images of animals and people as seen here are non-traditional images incorporating traditional ceremonial designs.

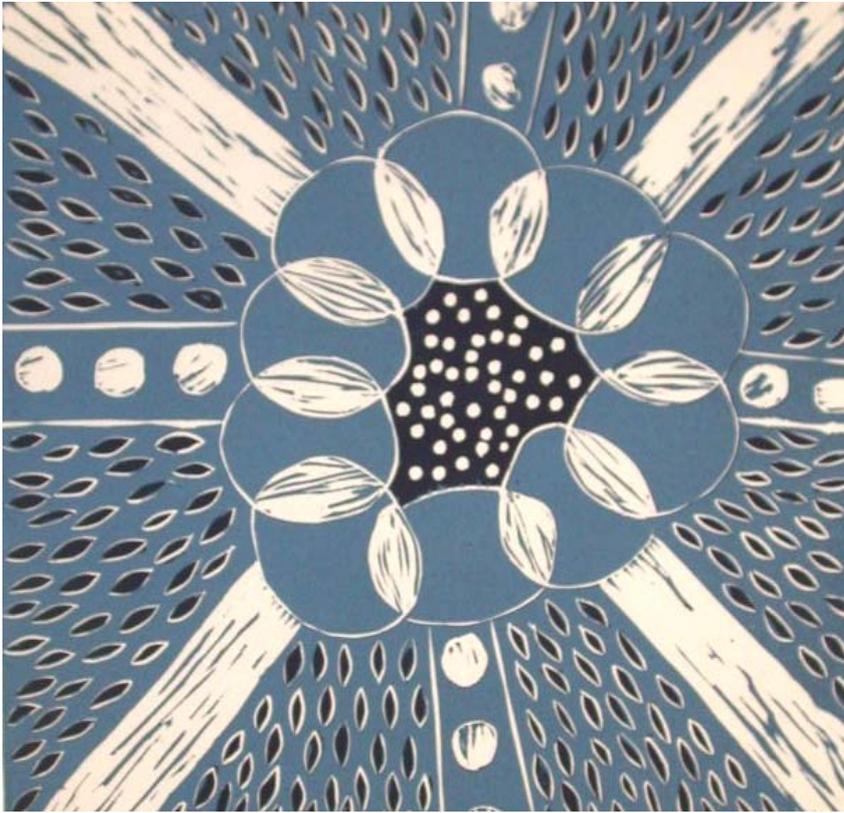
During the wet season (October to March) a local derby of Australian Rules Football is played out across the two islands. The grand final draws thousands of spectators from around Australia and overseas.

Questions:

- Find the Tiwi Islands on a map of Australia. What are their names?
- It is only 100 kilometres from Darwin, but how would you get there?
- What do you think your main pastime would be if you lived on the Tiwi Islands?
- Jilamara is an indigenous word, used as the name of the design studio on the Tiwi Islands. What actually is 'jilamara'?
- What other art forms are the Tiwi Islands famed for?



Bobby (Jimmy) Orsto born 1972
 Aboriginal, Tiwi language group
Footballers off to the game 2002
 Colour aquatint
 Purchased 2002



Samantha Hobson born 1981
 Kuuku-ya'u language group
My family 1999
 Colour linocut
 Purchased 2003

Lockhart River

Lockhart River is located 530km north-west of Cairns and is one of the most isolated communities in Queensland. Several years ago the Lockhart River Art Gang was formed, comprising young artists from the community. The ages of the members of the Art Gang ranged from early teens to mid-twenties. Diversity and individuality of style marks the group - there is no all-encompassing similarity between the different artists in the Art Gang. Some artists follow a traditional style based on sand designs and body paint; other artists follow a 'European' style and depict their chosen subject matter in a more literal manner.

Questions:

- Find Lockhart River on a map of Australia. It is a fairly isolated area, Where is the nearest town?
- Most of the artists in the Lockhart River Art Gang are young. What sort of things do you think they would paint about?
- Find out how to make a screenprint. All of the prints in 'Water' are on paper. What else could you use? What difference would it make to your image?



Samantha Hobson born 1981
 Kuuku-ya'u language group
Poles apart 2001
 Colour screenprint
 Gift of Andrew Baker, 2003

Images from Arnhem Land

Arnhem Land is a region in the north-east corner of the Northern Territory, covering some 94,000km². A diversity of communities forms the region, including the Yolngu, Rembarnga and Ngalakan peoples. It was 'one of the last regions of Australia to be significantly affected by European impact and one of the first to have contact with the outside world (through the Macassans)'.¹ The peoples of Arnhem Land, particularly the Yolngu, are among Australia's most committed to their culture, beliefs and traditional ways of life. Numerous art centres in the region have operated for several decades, home to many of Australia's best known artists. Certain stylistic devices such as cross-hatching and 'x-ray painting' are common to art from Arnhem Land. Many artists depict animals that are the subject of traditional stories, or form an integral part of everyday life.

Also on display are a selection of ceramics by Hermannsberg artists and pandanus baskets from Aurukun.

¹ Horton, D (ed). *The Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia*, Aboriginal Studies Press for the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Canberra, 1994: p.57.

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21 March - 13 July 2003

Curated by Gordon Craig, Curator (Collection and Exhibitions)

Design and text by Gordon Craig and Robyn Daw, Curator (Public Programs)

QUT Cultural Precinct • Art Museum

2 George Street, Brisbane 4000

10:00am - 4:00pm Tues - Fri

12:00noon - 4:00pm Sat/Sun

Entry is free



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Top:

Daynganggan 1892-deceased
Gupapuyngu language group
Fish totem c1963
Coloured ochres on eucalyptus bark
Purchased by student donations, 1964

Centre:

Clara Ngala Inkamala born 1954
Aboriginal, Arrente language group
Tjonpa (Perentie lizard) 2000
Terracotta pot, coiled with underglazes and applied decoration
Purchased 2000

Bottom:

Rotanna Ngallametta born 1947
Aboriginal, Wik-Mungkana language group
Pandanus basket 1996
Coiled pandanus palm fronds and vegetable dyes
Purchased 1997