



Australian Government
Indigenous Business Australia

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MEDIA RELEASE

IBA supports Indigenous art development in Townsville

The purchase of the Holiday Inn Townsville has allowed Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) to involve Indigenous groups in various aspects of the hotel redevelopment.

IBA General Manager Ron Morony, said that one of the outcomes that IBA wants to achieve is to generate and support employment, training and business development opportunities within the region.

“IBA approached Umbrella Studio, a Townsville based not-for-profit contemporary arts organisation, to commission artwork for the recently purchased 200 room Townsville icon.”

The commission involves the production of a series of approximately 276 limited edition works on paper that will be installed as part of the refurbishment process of the Hotel.

Umbrella Studios brought together 8 Indigenous artists for a series of printmaking workshops to develop ideas and produce works that met the design brief.

This included Masterclasses with well known artists Arone Meeks, Theo Tremblay, Alick Tipoti, Donna Foley and Dani Mellor as part of their skills development.

Artists with a wide range of professional experience participated including; youth artist from Palm Island Maverick Fox, emerging artist Ian Kaddy, to more established artists Shirley Collins, Aicey Zaro, Susan Peters, Marilyn Kepple, Rannietta Lind and James Billy.

Vicky Salisbury the Director of Umbrella Studio said these artists were invited to participate as they are highly regarded for their artistic potential and commitment to professional practice.

“The project has expanded the level of arts practice for Indigenous artists who live and work in the region.”

“The majority of participants exceeded far beyond their own expectations, reaching a new benchmark in productive capacity and artistic expression.”

“These artists proudly share their stories on paper soon to be showcased in a high visibility main stream location.”

The final production includes lino-prints and screen prints to be displayed in the rooms and monotypes for placement in prominent areas throughout the hotel foyer and bar.

It is believed that the collection will provide a distinct northern Queensland and Indigenous identity to the Holiday Inn Townsville as well as promote small business and stimulate demand for further production of Indigenous art in the region.

The copyright of the artwork will remain with the individual artist who will also receive re-sale royalties should the artworks be sold by IBA.

The Holiday Inn is currently undergoing extensive renovations with the artwork expected to be on display in the hotel from July. An exhibition is planned for 17 July 2009.

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