



Australian Government
Indigenous Business Australia

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MEDIA RELEASE

Local Indigenous art celebrated at Exhibition

Indigenous Business Australia (IBA), in conjunction with Umbrella Studio and the Holiday Inn Townsville, is celebrating the completion of a series of locally produced Indigenous artworks with an exhibition at the Hotel on Friday 17 July.

The exhibition features up to 35 Indigenous artworks produced in the Townsville region and are taken from a wider collection commissioned for the redevelopment of the Holiday Inn.

IBA commissioned Umbrella Studio, a Townsville based not-for-profit contemporary arts organisation, to produce a series of approximately 250 limited edition works that will be installed as part of the refurbishment process of the Hotel.

IBA General Manager Ron Morony said that IBA looks for its investments to create economic development opportunities for local Indigenous economy.

"I am pleased that local Indigenous artists are contributing to the redevelopment of the Holiday Inn Townsville," Mr Morony said.

To produce the artworks Umbrella Studio brought together eight Indigenous artists for a series of printmaking workshops to develop ideas and produce works that met the design brief for the Hotel.

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.

Director of Umbrella Studio Vicky Salisbury said the artists were invited to participate due to their artistic potential and commitment to professional practice.

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

The final production included 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 hopefully stimulate demand for further production of Indigenous art in the region.

Artwork is currently on display in the Hotel lobby with more to be on show in the bar, restaurant and hotel rooms once renovations are completed in September 2009.

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