

ART BYRON

A Contemporary Art Gathering



2022
ANNUAL REVIEW

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welcome to country.

“ Aboriginal Art has been the means of storytelling for Aboriginal people for thousands of years... My involvement with Art Byron was an opportunity to contribute to the continuation of culture here on my country, Arakwal Country in Byron Bay. As a contemporary artist and proud Arakwal Bundjalung woman I am passionate about sharing Aboriginal culture and was honoured to perform the “Welcome to Country” at the inaugural Art Byron gathering. Sharing my connection, historical understanding and the cultural significance of this place. ”

Arakwal Artist - Nickolla Clark

Art Byron acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the Arakwal people, the Minjungbal people and the Widjabul people, and pay our respects to elders past and present.



“ Art Byron is a dynamic platform for contemporary art. The biennial gathering brings together outstanding talent, creating an open forum for like-minded people to share, discuss and explore contemporary culture. ”

A biennial contemporary art gathering held on the September - October long weekend on Bundjalung Country in Northern NSW.

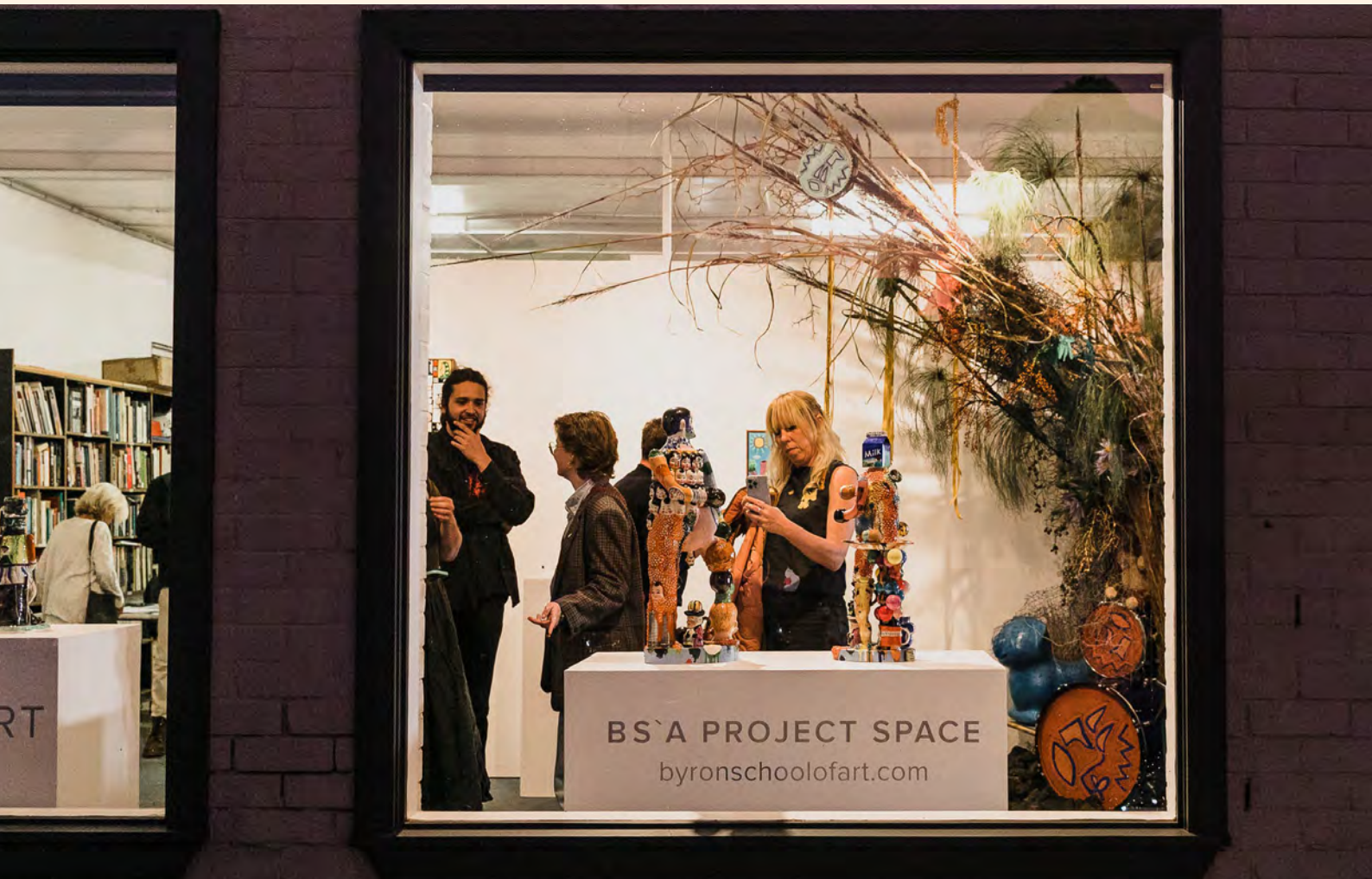
“Art Byron will provide the opportunity for visitors to experience the depth of the northern rivers art scene and see the calibre of artists working across our region,” Karla Dickens

After two years of postponements due to the pandemic and floods, organisers of Art Byron forged ahead with the four day celebration of creativity, culture and diversity that started on September 30 at venues across the Northern Rivers in NSW.

The inaugural Art Byron gathered local and nationally celebrated artists for a feast of events including exhibitions, gallery talks, music, film, a multi-media installation and an art gala dinner.

Art Byron founder Lisa Cowan said the gathering would bring the local arts community together and provide a dynamic platform for contemporary art.

The 2022 theme ‘Love or Fear’ was envisioned by renowned First Nation woman artist Karla Dickens and funded through philanthropy, the Restart investment to Sustain (RISE) fund, the NSW Government through Create NSW, Destination NSW and corporate partners.



Founder & Executive Producer, Lisa Cowan

After an extensive career in Sydney working as an arts engagement specialist collaborating with artists, curators and galleries to engage audiences with art, I relocated to the northern rivers in 2016.

The idea for Art Byron had been at the back of mind for some time... as a regular visitor to the region I always thought there was so much talent in the region but nothing that brought the visual arts community together.

I saw Art Byron as an opportunity for artists to engage and share their stories with people who love art. The Byron Shire hosts major festivals such as the Byron Writers Festival, the Byron Film Festival and the Blues Festival but, to date, nothing for the visual arts community.

We have seen the crucial role art has played in helping people through the COVID 19 crisis and with the devastating floods in the region Art Byron has given artists and the wider community an opportunity to re-connect, heal and celebrate our resilience.

I am grateful for the support of the local arts community and Karla Dickens for bringing the vision to life. The artists involved in the inaugural Art Byron really connected with the curatorial idea of "Love or Fear" which was approached with joy, humour and love. Visitors embraced this, there was a real sense of connection and community.



"As a First Nation woman, artist, storyteller and environmentalist alive and active at this crucial time on the planet... I aim to nurture the importance of art, exploring multidisciplinary forms, with a warmth that invites and includes anyone with a sense of hope, growth, and possibility."

Karla Dickens

Curator 2022, Karla Dickens

As a First Nation woman, artist, storyteller, and environmentalist alive and active at this crucial time on the planet I aim to strive for the solution while asking myself and others juicy, punchy questions. My involvement in Art Byron focuses on asking the audience, artists, and wider communities the question – Love or Fear?

After 2020 we all have the amazing opportunity to create and drive major change, to hold and embrace what really matters, to let go of the unnecessary, building a safe holistic environment that pops with soulful colourful connection.

Blessed to call Bundjalung country home for the last 18 years, I feel I have a solid eye and feel when it comes to the local art movements, creatives, and spaces in a wide range of communities.

In this time I have also had amazing opportunities working around the country with some of the best in the art world.

As we gather on this land for Art Byron I'm totally pumped to weave together all my inspirations and experience into a current meaningful celebration of diverse cultures and communities – locally and from further afield. I aim to nurture the importance of art, exploring multidisciplinary forms, with a warmth that invites and includes anyone with a sense of hope, growth, and possibility.

In this process I acknowledge and respect the work Glenn Barkley had already contributed.

mission statement.

Art Byron's mission is to be a biennial festival that brings together multi-cultural artists, multi- artform creators, storytellers, gallerists, arts lovers and collectors from in and around the region and country to engage, participate, collaborate during the September / October long weekend.

This festival will enable local and invited artists to showcase their work, sell their creations, network with industry, connect with their community, learn, mentor, share their practices, amplify their voices, promote and lift their profiles to new audience's through meaningful strategic festival delivery.

A close-up photograph of a person's arm and hand holding a white tote bag. The person is wearing a dark, possibly black, garment with a decorative, multi-colored patterned hem. The tote bag is white and has the text 'ART BYRON' printed in large, bold, black letters. Below this, in smaller black text, it reads 'a contemporary art gathering: sept 30-oct 3 '22'. The background is blurred, suggesting an outdoor event setting.

ART BYRON
a contemporary
art gathering:
sept 30-oct 3
'22



“ Art Byron has been sitting quietly, listening and feeling our way through the life changing events that have shaken The Northern Rivers to the core. Art Byron has made changes to accommodate our artists and art lovers - we are looking forward to including you all on our journey. A journey of celebrating, healing and rebuilding our lives through a creative network of recovery and expression. Art Byron invites you to keep connected to the latest news outlining our program full of soulful artists, their art, talks, workshops and healing platforms. ”

Karla Dickens.



**program
overview
2022.**

opening night & exhibition.



Hiromi Tango

During the Festival launch, the BS'A building was transformed into a multi-media installation at night featuring video projections by Djon Mundine, Justine Muller and Ryan Andrew Lee along with large collage works by Laith McGregor. Over the weekend, the BS'A Gallery hosted a day of talks moderated by Ashley Ralph from Lismore Art Gallery with Karla Dickens, Blak Douglas, Jamie Perrow and Polly Borland.

Polly Borland



Byron School of Art, Mullumbimby Exhibition & Opening Night

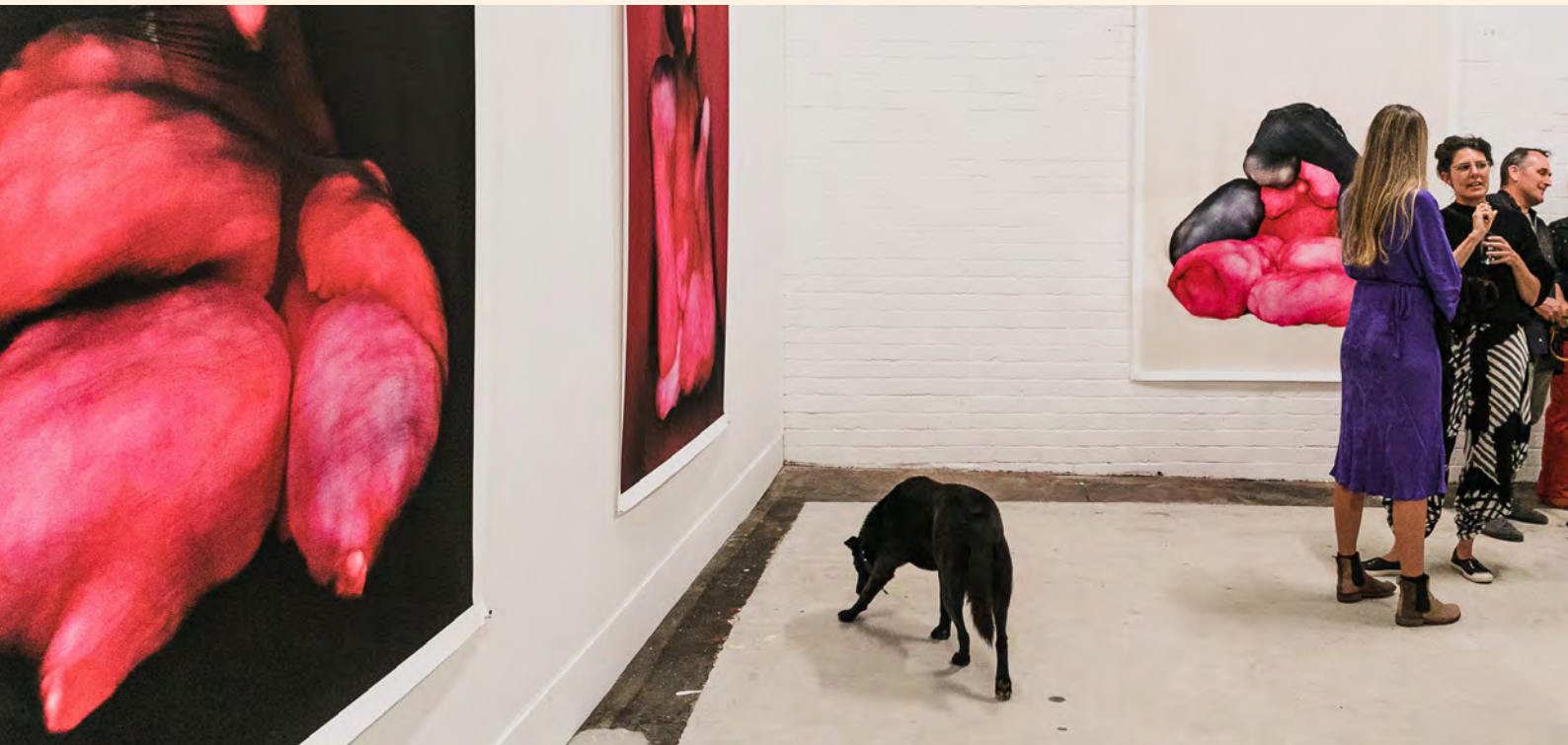
Artists: Hiromi Tango, Michael Donnelly, Polly Borland, Zion Levy Stewart, Stephen Bird, Selena Murray, Djon Mundine, Justine Muller, Ryan Andrew Lee, Elise Derwin, Tessa Walker Charles and Laith McGregor.

Byron School of Art (BS'A) in Mullumbimby hosted an exhibition of works by Hiromi Tango and Lismore based artist Michael Donnelly who created a series looking at the affects of the recent flood events in Lismore. The BSA opening night also included works from the 'Morph' Series by internationally acclaimed photographic artist Polly Borland, the 'Soap Opera' series by local differently abled artist Zion Levy Stewart, sculptural works in paint and clay by artist Stephen Bird and a floral installation by Selena Murray. Another highlight was the commissioned portrait of 'Polly' by Zion who captured her unique look brilliantly.



THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 29.

opening night & exhibition.



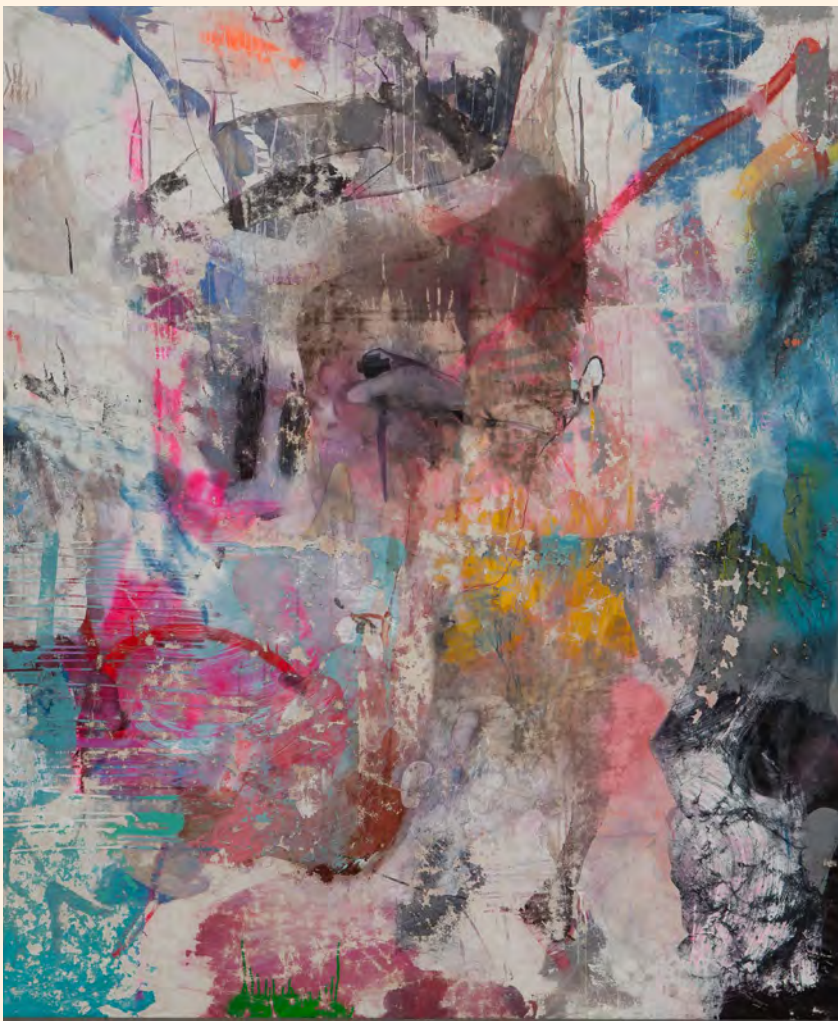
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 29.

opening night & exhibition.



THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 29.

opening night & exhibition.



Michael Donnelly

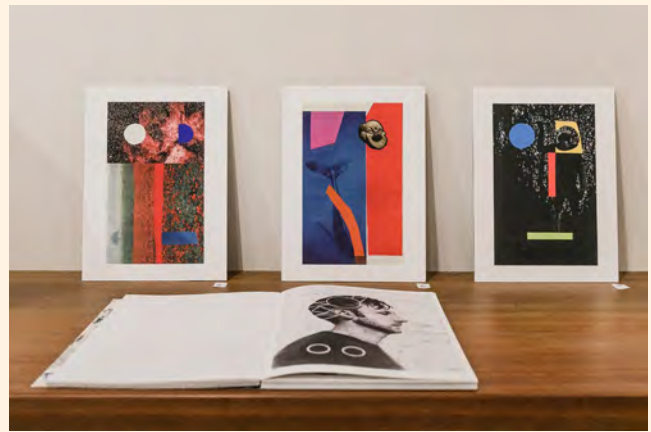


THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 29.

exhibitions.

The Sunseeker Byron Bay Foyer Installation: Laith McGregor

The Sunseeker Byron Bay, hosted a collection of local artist, Laith McGregor's small paintings, drawings and ceramic works for the duration of the festival. Born on the Sunshine Coast, Laith majored in painting in 2007 at the Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne and is known for producing portraits using the humble biro, large-scale durational drawings, as well as sculptural installations featuring unconventional drawing mediums and surfaces.



Laith McGregor

THURSDAY SEPT 29 - MONDAY OCT 3.

exhibitions.

Thomgallery Exhibition
Arts and Industry Estate, Byron Bay
Tennant Creek Brio



Tennant Creek Brio

Thomgallery hosted a major solo exhibition by Northern Territories Indigenous artists collective and mens art group, The Tennant Creek Brio, at the gallery's Fern Place space for 2 weeks. The Tennant Creek Brio began life as an Aboriginal men's art therapy program and participated in the Sydney Biennale. The current group's collective work is a dynamic interplay of Aboriginal desert traditions, abstract expressionism, action painting, found objects, street art and art activism. The Italian word brio means mettle, fire, 'vivacity or style of performance. It expresses the groups energetic, experimental and transformative spirit, whose collective work is a dynamic interplay of influences.



Tennant Creek Brio



THURSDAY SEPT 29 - MONDAY OCT 3.

exhibitions.

Yeah, Nice. Gallery Exhibition Byron Bay Arts & Industry Estate “Sand & Water” Michael Philp, Garth Lena and Beki Davies

First Nation artists and Indigenous cultural experiences were integral to the vision of Art Byron. The ‘Sand and Water’ exhibition, featured local Bundjalung artists, Michael Philp, Garth Lena and contemporary landscape artist, Beki Davies at Yeah, Nice. gallery’s warehouse space in Byron Bay’s St Agni precinct.

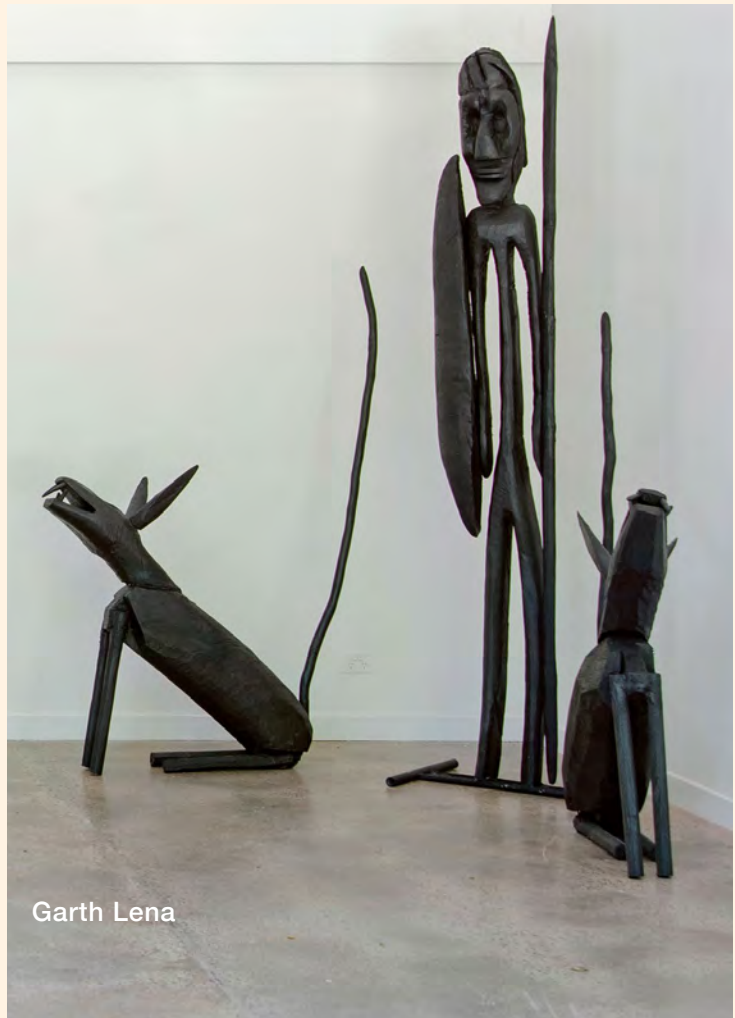
A series of Philp’s minimal contemporary works, representing our salt water country hung alongside sculptural works by Garth and Lismore based artist Davies.



Beki Davies



Michael Philp



Garth Lena

SATURDAY OCT 1 - MONDAY OCT 3.

exhibitions.

The Sunseeker Byron Bay Interactive Art Installation Oszy Wright & Paige Miller

Artist Ozyzy Wright and artistic upholsterer Paige Miller combined their practices to transform a room in The Sunseeker motel into an interactive art installation. Ozyzy Wright's sewn fabrics adorned the furnishings of a motel room that was open to the public to view throughout the weekend. Wright's works are large scale, loud and colourful, and most typically depict characters and concepts based around love, happiness and good vibrations – an instinctive fit with Art Byron's theme of "Love or Fear".



Ozyzy Wright

Paige Miller

THURSDAY SEPT 29 - MONDAY OCT 3.

arts market & hub.

The Sunseeker Byron Bay Byron Bay CBD

Our arts hub partner, The Sunseeker Byron Bay and Art Byron hosted all participating artists to a native foods BBQ and Arts Market on the Sunday. This was a unique opportunity for visitors and community to engage directly with local artists and acquire original art creations. The Arts Market featured 6 handpicked stalls and was a celebration of a diverse range of local artists from the Bundjalung Region. A curated mix of emerging and established artists, employing traditional and contemporary materials. Stallholders included: Anjuna Hartlieb, Jacob Boylan, MartyBaptist, Caitlin Reily & Liv Enqvist, Jugan Dandii and North Coast Ceramics. Native BBQ By Bernie Gooley.



SUNDAY OCT 2.

arts market & hub.

The Sunseeker Byron Bay
Byron Bay CBD



SUNDAY OCT 2.

arts market & hub.

The Sunseeker Byron Bay
Byron Bay CBD



SUNDAY OCT 2.

arts market & hub.

The Sunseeker Byron Bay
Byron Bay CBD



SUNDAY OCT 2.

artist talks.

ART BYRON

\$15

artist talks

The
Sunseeker
Talk:
Laith
McGregor

Friday, Sept 30
2 - 2.45pm
The Sunseeker, Byron Bay



FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 30.

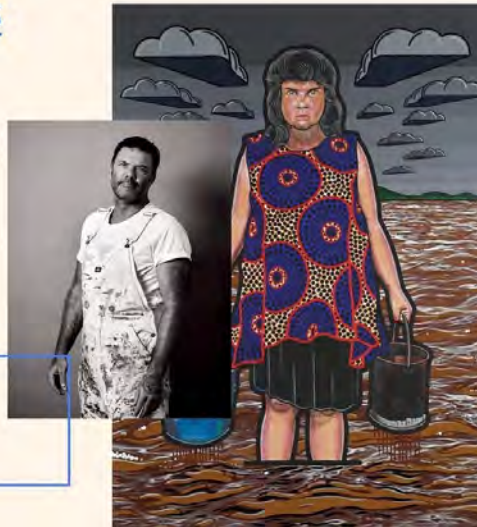
artist talks.

ART BYRON

\$15

artist talks

The BSA
Talk:
Blak Douglas
& Karla Dickens



Saturday, Oct 1
1 - 1.45pm
The Byron School of Art



SATURDAY OCT 1.

artist talks.

ART BYRON

\$15

artist talks

The BSA
Talk:
Polly Borland &
Jamie Perrow,
Urban Arts
Projects



Saturday, Oct 1
2 - 2.45pm
The Byron School of Art



SATURDAY OCT 1.

artist talks.

ART BYRON

\$15

Thomgallery,
Byron Arts and
Industrial Estate

Talk:
Karla Dickens
+ The Tennant
Creek Brio

Sunday October
3.45pm 2
Thomgallery Byron Bay



SUNDAY OCT 2.

artist talks.

ART BYRON

\$15

artist talks

The “Sand & Water” Talk:
Garth Lena,
Michael Philp &
Beki Davies



Monday, Oct 3
2 - 2.45pm
Yeah, Nice Gallery



MONDAY OCT 3.

fundraising dinner.

Byron Arts Magazine Art Series Dinner Tones Cafe & Braer Studio, and Yeah, Nice. Gallery Byron Bay.

Featuring: Dr Claire Milledge,
Andrew Rewald and Ashleigh Ralph.

Byron Arts Magazine hosted their fifth Art Series Dinner - Environmental Art, featuring Dr Claire Milledge and Andrew Rewald as an exclusive evening of conversation, food and wine at Tones Café and Braer Studio.

Artist and academic Clare Milledge and artist and chef Andrew Rewald discussed their practices and how they are informed by the environment.

Taking place as part of the inaugural Art Byron Gathering, this unique Art Series Dinner saw Dr Milledge's work Little Shrike-Thrush Calling in the Gully: in Praise of Shadows and Mr Rewald's Ethnobotanical series installed in a collaborative, intertwined display throughout the Braer space.

Dr Clare Milledge is an artist and academic whose work re-examines contemporary environments with ecology through art. Andrew's practice is informed by food and cookery as both artistic medium and subject. Both artists work were included in the recent 2020 Sydney Biennale.

Art Series dinner guests enjoyed a semi outdoor dinner setting that included a grazing table of local, sustainable, foraged and indigenous ingredients, brought together by Tones' owner and local chef, Lukeman.

Chef Lukeman and Andrew Rewald collaborated to source and forage ingredients for a menu that featured some of Andrew's edible products made of indigenous species.

Guests received a Brookie's Gin cocktail on arrival featuring native botanicals, matched with natural wines by minimum. wines.



SATURDAY OCTOBER 1.

fundraising dinner.

Byron Arts Magazine
Art Series Dinner



SATURDAY OCTOBER 1.

fundraising dinner.

Byron Arts Magazine
Art Series Dinner



SATURDAY OCTOBER 1.

fundraising dinner.

Byron Arts Magazine
Art Series Dinner



SATURDAY OCTOBER 1.

fundraising dinner.

Byron Arts Magazine
Art Series Dinner



SATURDAY OCTOBER 1.

fundraising dinner.

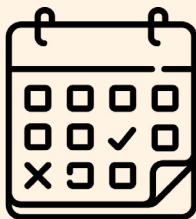
Byron Arts Magazine
Art Series Dinner



SATURDAY OCTOBER 1.

snapshot - stats.

4 Gallery Exhibitions



720 attendees

5 Artists Talks



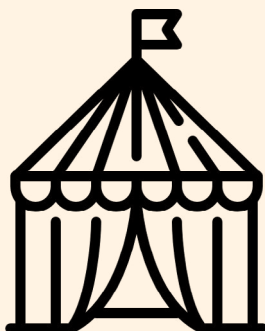
300 attendees

6 Free Events

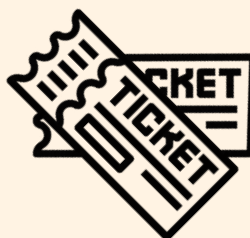


600 attendees

5 Venues

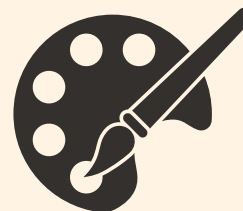


300 Tickets Sold



\$8,228.00 income

Artwork Sold



\$70,000 +

snapshot - media coverage.

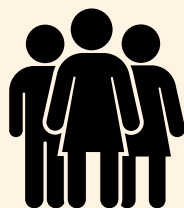
Estimated Views



232K

Prediction of lifetime views of coverage, based on audience reach & engagement rate on social

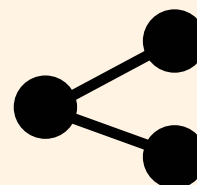
Audience



117M

Combined total of publication-wide audience figures for all outlets featuring coverage

Engagements



3.38K

Combined total of likes, comments and shares on social media platforms

participating artists.



Andrew Rewald



Clare Milledge



Karla Dickens



Laith Mc Gregor



Michael Donnelly



Michael Philip



Selena Murray



Steven Bird



Zion Levi



Hiromi Tango



Polly Borland



The Tennant Creek Brio

participating artists.



Garth Lena



Justine Muller



Beki Davies



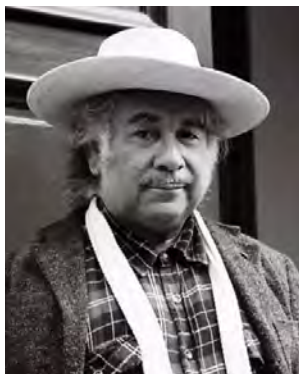
Ozzie Wrong



Tralala Blip



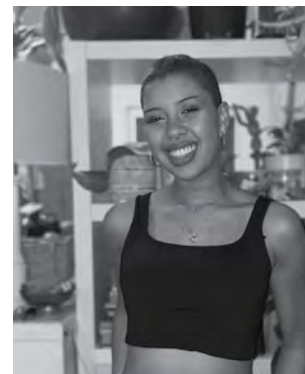
Nickolla Clark



Djon Mundine



Ryan Andrew Lee



Tessa Walker Charles



Elsie Derwin

“It was a pleasure to participate in Art Byron – both as a speaker at the artist talks and as an attendee at the exhibitions and events. Art Byron brought together people from across the region and demonstrated the creative excellence of artists in the Northern Rivers. The program celebrated diversity and contemporary perspectives, elevating the experience of art and culture in Byron Bay.”

Ashleigh Ralph
Director – Lismore Art Gallery

testimonials.



“Art Byron. Get into it!
An excellent night
and welcome from
Nickolla Clark
and mc-ing by Ilona.
Check it out all over
the community through
the weekend...
at THOM, Yeah Nice,
The Sunseeker
and BSA, So good!
Byron at its best!”

Mark Swivel
Councillor, Byron Bay

“As a multi-disciplinary artist who has worked for years in the Byron shire, I was honoured and excited to be part of Art Byron in 2022. Having a cohesive gathering of artists, galleries and the community was, and very much is, a needed link for the arts for our regional area that has been devastated by the recent pandemic and floods.

The diversity of the artists, as well as galleries involved, created a dynamic and exciting flow that opened up hearts, paths and connections. Art’s heart started beating in Byron and inspiration is surging once more. Art has always been the backbone of Byron culture from the gatherings of the Bundjalung people to the epi-centre of the 80’s and 90’s putting Byron on the map for contemporary art and music.

This history has made Byron an obvious destination for the arts community and now having Art Byron represent our collective, creative heartbeat, we have invigorated our shire once again and nurtured this vital movement back into our beloved community.”

Ilona Harker
Creative Engagement Specialist , Music and Art Creator



testimonials.

“Art Byron came as a beacon of light as we emerged from the pandemic’s no man’s land of the past two years. It re-established connection and community between all levels of the industry. It was an amazing experience to be able to collaborate and exhibit alongside local Bundjalung artists and meet other creatives whose practices were so inspiring.

The Creative Community of the northern rivers needs Art Byron; to connect us, to the community, to place, but mostly to each other.

I have huge amounts of gratitude for Karla, Lisa and Mouche along with all the others behind the scenes who were able to relate such a unique opportunity for artists to engage with audiences, galleries and the wider community.”

Beki Davies - Artist



“Initiatives such as Art Byron are crucial in supporting our collective vision of an engaged, diverse, connected and resilient arts and cultural community that is valued in our Northern Rivers region, and recognised nationally and internationally.”

Jane Fuller
Executive Director -
Art Northern Rivers



testimonials.



“I really enjoyed delivering and welcoming in everyone alongside the responses I got. The multiple events and works were amazing! A highlight for me was welcoming the Tennant Creek Brio, Warumungu artist collective from the Northern Territory; sharing their stories and celebrating their talent.

Welcoming other mob to country was a special connection I could share to create a culturally safe space.

I feel very privileged to have been given this opportunity to advocate and share my elders vision to a wide range of audiences throughout Art Byron. And to highlight that our culture is still alive, sacred and valued, especially here in my wider community. This was vividly seen in the massive sculptures by Garth Lena. The presence of First Nations voice, story and expression was a highlight overall to see being included as a gesture towards reconciliation and sharing Australia true history. I look forward to being involved in the next iteration.”

Nickolla Clark
Bunjalong Artist
and Welcome to Country
Representative

“Great opening night for Art Byron- a weekend of great opportunities to buy art, look at art, hear about art. Kind of bathe in a pool of art.

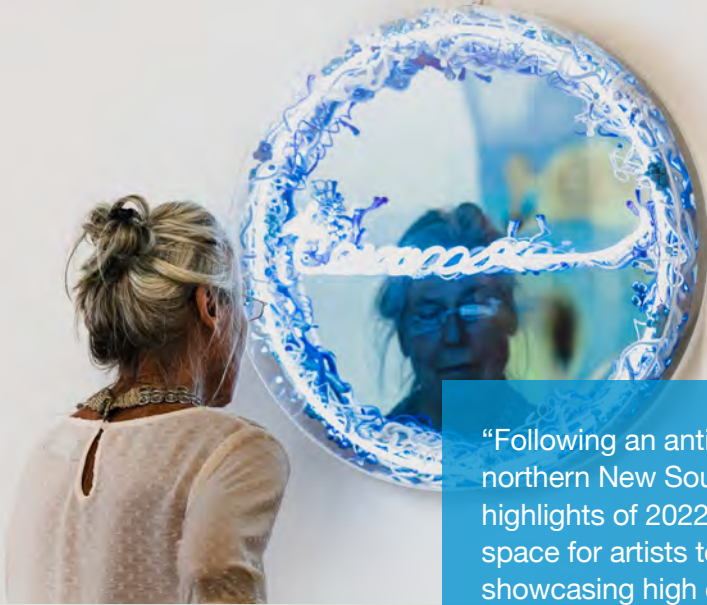
Simon Richardson
(former Byron Mayor)



testimonials.

“It was a great experience being able to share with other artists at Art Byron being involved and hearing they stories knowing that aboriginal culture is still alive and well and will survive well into the future”

Garth Lena - Artist



“Following an anticipated wait for a much needed art event in the northern New South Wales; Art Byron proved to be one of the highlights of 2022 for the region. The event provided a creative space for artists to gather, communicate and exchange ideas while showcasing high calibre visual art. As an artist, I feel very privileged to be involved in such an inspiring event and look forward to engaging with future iterations in the coming years.”

Laith McGregor - Artist



“Byron School of Art was delighted to be a venue partner with Art Byron for the inaugural Art Byron in 2022.

Lisa and the team were inclusive, hard working, flexible and passionate. Their commitment to seeing the project through has built the foundations for an incredible platform for the visual arts in the Region. Art Byron is a great opportunity for artists and the art community to build and diversify audiences, fostering relationships with artists and art lovers from across Australia.”

Michael Cusack
Co-Founder Byron School of Art

testimonials.

“The Art Byron festival was a great opportunity for me to get greater exposure of my art work and art process from a perspective of a first nations artist working and living on country in a contemporary modern landscape.”

First Nations Artist, Michael Philp



“Our inclusion in last years Art Byron was a rare opportunity for our artists and art & cultural centre to engage an audience outside of the Territory. The experience was a positive one, especially given the support, financial and professional, we were given - both yourself and Karla being indispensable. The cultural exchange between the Tennant creek Brio and the Bundjalung representatives is one we hope to maintain into the future. These are the relationships that are remembered long after the exhibitions come down.”

Levi McLean
Manager, Nyinkka Nyunyu
Art & Cultural Centre

partnerships.



Art Byron is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW



Australian Government
RISE Fund



GOLD COAST ŠKODA



THE
SUNSEEKER



thomgallery

Yeah, Nice. BYRON ARTS MAGAZINE ©
GALLERY



MINIMUM.

Brookie's
BYRON GIN



GCB SCAFFOLDING
& HIRE



Brookfarm™

colormaker
INDUSTRIES
making the world a better place through colour™ 

acknowledgments.



Festival team

Founder/ Executive Producer
Lisa Cowan

Executive Director
Mouche Phillips

Curator
Karla Dickens

Publicist
Janelle Morse

Event Producer
Jordana Henry

Marketing Manager
Holly McCauley

Board

Acting Chair
Mouche Phillips

Board Members
Ursula Sullivan
Lisa Cowan

Treasurer
Ishwin Thind

Patrons

Rick Raftos and Kathrine Norman,
Janine Collins, Lisa Cowan,
Lisa Paulsen, Ursula Sullivan



Thank you

Michael Cusack, Christine Wilcox,
Alana Wilson, Janine Collins,
Lisa Paulson, Alex Thom, Alex Mankiewicz,
Jess & Dave Frid, Sullivan and Strumpf,
Station Gallery, Olsen Gallery,
The Sunseeker Byron Bay staff,
Christian Morrow, Sharne Wolff
and all our volunteers.

A blurred photograph of an art gallery. In the center, a green abstract sculpture is mounted on a wall. To the right, a woman with blonde hair and glasses is looking at a large framed artwork. In the foreground, a table with a white tablecloth and several glasses is visible. Other people are seen in the background, some looking at art. The overall atmosphere is warm and artistic.

ART BYRON

A Contemporary Art Gathering

2022