

Exhibition Touring Information



Dogai (Arcturus), Linocut Print, 91 cm x 60 cm

Ad Wer: Story of the Stars from Eastern Torres Strait

An exhibition by Tommy Pau toured by Umbrella Studio contemporary arts

Ad Wer: Story of the Stars from Eastern Torres Strait is a body of linocut print artworks by Tommy Pau based on the constellations and the science of astronomy used by eastern Torres Strait Islanders.

The methodology of the Torres Strait Islanders has been careful observation over thousands of years. Each observation recorded and etched into their memories and passed down verbally and orally to the next generation. The Islanders compare these natural seasonal timestamp changes so they are able to predict future planning for agriculture and hunting. These events are etched into memories and experiences.

Torres Strait Islanders observed the stars to govern their cosmos; to navigate, to plan, to plant, to study symbiotic relationships of space and time. This tells them when to hunt, plant seasonal foods and perform timely annual ceremonies.

Pau sourced his information from casual conversations with elders present, elders past and ethnography works on the Torres Strait. The intent of this exhibition is to preserve, educate and provoke future studies on the science of stars Torres Strait Islanders used in their cosmology. This knowledge is fast disappearing as the contemporary generations become more reliant on modern technology and methods.

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EXHIBITION TITLE

Ad Wer: Story of the Stars from Erub Island

TOURING DATES

Available to tour from November 2016 - December 2017 to venues across Australia

COST

\$1,100 (GST inclusive) + freight to venue

- Crating and insurance of works between venues
- Tour development and management

SUPPORT MATERIALS

- Touring Manual with installation advice and artwork condition reporting
- Exhibition didactics and labels (printed)
- Exhibition invitation template
- Exhibition catalogues
- Education resource
- Comments book
- Media release
- Promotional support on the Gallery website and social media sites

VENUE REQUIREMENTS

- Requires exhibition duration of no shorter than four weeks
- Suitable hanging system for framed works
- Trained staff to install and demount exhibition

APPROXIMATE SIZE

25 - 30 running metres

The artwork selection can be edited based on the size and capacity of the exhibition venue.

TARGET AUDIENCES

Umbrella Studio aims to develop audience appreciation for Townsville based Indigenous artists and their unique stories. Umbrella Studio is focused on our commitment to embrace cultural diversity and engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists living and working in the region.

The key audiences for this exhibition include a general audience, as well as primary and secondary schools, tertiary audience, artists and those with a interest in Astronomy, Indigenous language and Torres Strait Islander history.

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TOURING ARTWORK EXAMPLES



Wal (two crew of Tagai), Linocut Print, 30 cm x 30 cm



Meb (moon), Linocut Print, 91 cm x 60 cm



Wer Tik (Milky Way), Linocut Print, 91 cm x 60 cm



Seg (Orion), Linocut Print, 66 cm x 63 cm

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ABOUT UMBRELLA STUDIO CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Umbrella Studio Association Incorporated is an inclusive, not-for-profit, exhibition and studio space that drives innovation, invites experimentation, encourages excellence and inspires appreciation for contemporary visual art in North Queensland and beyond. Umbrella Studio is a member-based organisation with over 250 active members. The organisation has an annual program of exhibitions, public programs and special events as well as an active working studio space for artists.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Tommy Pau is a descendent of the Eastern Torres Strait Islands, his heritage is Australian Aboriginal, Papua New Guinea, Pacific Islander and Asian. He was born in Townsville, North Queensland and lived there as an infant before relocating to Brisbane, Thursday Island and Cairns. Pau considers himself an artist who is Indigenous, not as an Indigenous artist. His wide ranging professional practice includes sculpture, carving, printmaking, installation work, digital and multimedia, and anything that grabs his interest. He also writes poetry.

Pau's visual artwork explores concepts that underpin his culture and re-evaluated the impact of the past on present lives and preserved knowledge. By developing a contemporary visual concept and language, Pau encourages the viewer to contemplate how persistent narratives of memory, time and location are used to represent the identity of Indigenous people. His aim is not to desecrate what is sacred, but to better understand the people, their stories, relationship to place and the skills of those who are connected to his Torres Strait Island home. Tommy Pau is a current member of the Board of the Cultural Centre-Townsville, Umi Arts in Cairns and a previous Board member of Umbrella Studio contemporary arts. Some of his significant life achievements include completing a Bachelor of Education and becoming a semi-finalist in the Telstra Art Award. Currently he is completing a degree in New Media Arts at James Cook University. His work is in national collections in Australia. His works on paper were included in national and international exhibitions including *Freshwater Saltwater: Existence* and *Country & Western: landscape re-imagined 1988-2013*.



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TOURING CRATES

Exhibition Tour Crates:

Ad Wer (Story of the Stars)

(h x d x w)cm
1: 98 x 125 x 30
2: 98 x 125 x 30
3: 98 x 138 x 31
4: 67 x 89 x 63



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studio contemporary arts
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FURTHER INFORMATION

Umbrella Studio contemporary arts are now seeking expressions of interest from galleries and art centres interested in hosting this exhibition. The exhibition is available from November 2016.

Please complete an expression of interest form and send it to:

Angela Cheung
Gallery & Media Coordinator
E: design@umbrella.org.au
T: 07 4772 7109

Umbrella Studio acknowledges the financial support of: The Queensland Government, through Arts Queensland, the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments.

