

Melanie Hava

Aboriginal name: "Winden" - green pigeon

I am blessed to have been born into interesting and diverse cultures: my father comes from the oldest city in Austria, Enns (Upper Austria) and my mother is from one of the oldest cultures in the world, Aboriginal people of Australia. While celebrating my Austrian heritage, I also identify through my Mum's line as a Mamu Aboriginal woman, Dugul-barra and Wari-barra family groups, from the Johnstone River catchment of the Wet Tropics of Far North Queensland and the adjoining Great Barrier Reef sea country. Reef and rainforest country are important sources for my inspirations.

I have known from a very young age that I was going to be an artist. While also being a bookworm and a piano player, art was a world that I frequently retreated into as I grew up. I reckon this is because I was deaf and felt I couldn't join in with groups of people. As a teen and along with my sister Joelene, we created art on didgeridoos and canvas. This art sold very quickly in the little, opal mining outback town of Yowah way out back of western Queensland. This red soil country still influences my works.

When I was in my late teens/early twenties, I started playing around with the ideas of combining my Aboriginal and Austrian inspirations. I had already tried my style in Aboriginal, Folk and Abstract arts and I had had a successful first exhibition at Outback at Isa Gallery. So at 23 I travelled to Austria to live with my father's family and absorb as much as I could of the Folk and European culture. More than anything I loved the architecture, inside and out. The patterns, gold leaf and occasional Swarovski crystal in my works are some things that I've gleaned from the European side to my heritage.

In 2007 and 2009 I had children: the first a beautiful girl born with Spina Bifida and the other a very energetic boy. I found myself out of the rat race of paid work and a lot of extra time on my hands so I indulged myself with painting every moment that I could.

I've since joined up with more galleries, had several exhibitions both solo and group, painting in Mount Isa, Toowoomba and Yowah before settling down in beautiful and inspiring Far North Queensland's Cairns city - close at hand to my mother's country and generations past and present. I'm feeling close with the spirit of rainforest and reef animals and this is coming out in my work. Also, I'm expanding my past focus by exploring family, culture and country stories and looking forward to where this leads.

Solo Exhibitions

2016 –Reflections, Umi Arts, Cairns
2016 – Reef and Rainforest Country, Aboriginal Art Galleries, Rotterdam
2015 - Mirages to Rainbows, Outback Gallery Mount Isa
2014 – Fusion at Tosari Galleries
2013 – UnderArt Gallery, Cairns
2011 - Feature artist at Tosari Galleries
2010 - “From Dust To Thunder,” Tosari Galleries, Toowoomba
2009 - “Indigenously Austr(al)ian,” Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, Toowoomba
2005 - “Migaloo Murri,” Outback at Isa, Mount Isa

Group Exhibitions

2018 – Member’s Exhibition, Umi Arts, Cairns
2018 – Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Umi Arts, Darwin
2017- Member’s Exhibition, Umi Arts Cairns
2017 – Manyung Gallery, Mount Eliza
2017 - Hong Kong Affordable Art Fair, Manyung Gallery, Hong Kong
2016 – You and Me Member’s Exhibtion, Umi Arts, Cairns
2016 – Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, Umi Arts, Cairns
2016 – Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Umi Arts, Darwin
2015 – Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, Umi Arts, Cairns
2015 – Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Umi Arts, Darwin
2015 – Manyung Gallery, Mount Eliza
2014 – Manyung gallery, Mt Eliza
2014 – Outback Gallery at Mount Isa
2014 - The **Quilpie** Museum, **Gallery** and Visitor Information Centre
2013 – Manyung Gallery, Mt Eliza
2013 - The **Quilpie** Museum, **Gallery** and Visitor Information Centre
2013 – Singapore Affordable Art Fair, Manyung Gallery, Singapore
2012 - Earths Elements, Manyung Gallery, Mt Eliza
2012 - The **Quilpie** Museum, **Gallery** and Visitor Information Centre
2008 - Brisbane Women’s Club, Brisbane
2007 - Gulf of Carpentaria and Savannah Indigenous Dreaming’s and Lifestyle exhibition

Bibliography

Landscapes Inspire Artist, The Chronicle, 14/06/14
Denise Carter, Melanie Hava combines Australian and Austrian influences in new solo art exhibition at UnderArt Gallery in Cairns, 29/10/13
Ally Martel, “Indigenous Mix,” Highlife Magazine, Spring 2010
Sandy Pottinger, “Artist Shares Imaginative Landscapes,” The Chronicle, 05/06/2010
Rosie O’Sullivan, “Melanie Hava,” Style Magazine, June 2010
Merryl Miller, “From Dust to Thunder,” Style Magazine, June 2010
Sandy Pottinger, “Solo Exhibitions Shape Focal Points for Brave Artists,” The Chronicle, 11/07/2009
Joann Marsh, “Artist Fuses Cultures to Create Work,” The Chronicle, 04/07/2009
Tahnee Watson, “Pair’s Art Becomes Serious Business,” The North West Star, 04/03/2008
Alison Mooney, “Motherhood Influential,” The North West Star, 08/01/2008
Aleisha Orr, “Exhibition Aids Artists,” The North West Star, 15/08/2007
Aleisha Orr, “Exhibition Aids Artists,” The North West Star, 15/08/2007
Mia Ginnivan, “Talented Young Woman,” The North West Star, 10/06/2005