



# EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

GROUP YOUTH EXHIBITION

## ‘CULTURE THROUGH OUR EYES’ 2026

2. OCTOBER 2026 – 26. FEBRUARY 2027

### EXHIBITION THEME / RATIONALE

Culture Through Our Eyes is a First Nations Youth Exhibition that provides young First Nations creators with the opportunity to showcase their work in a professional gallery setting. Students are encouraged to create work that reflects how they see and experience their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture — through their own eyes. The completed projects will be exhibited at the UMI Arts Gallery in Manooora until the end of February 2027. As the peak body representing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts community across Far North Queensland — from the Torres Strait Islands to Cardwell, and west to Camooweal, the Gulf and Mt Isa regions — UMI Arts provides a strong cultural platform for emerging voices. All participating students, along with their parents, teachers, friends, and extended family, are warmly invited to the exhibition opening, a special occasion to celebrate the creativity, talent, and achievements of these young artists. This opportunity is open to First Nations students enrolled in Years 7–12 in Cairns and surrounding areas who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and have a recognised bloodline connection to the community.

Works in any medium are accepted.

### IMPORTANT DEADLINES

**EOI APPLICATIONS OPEN: 1 DECEMBER 2025**

**EOI APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 16 JULY 2026**

**OPENING EVENING / LAUNCH: 2. OCTOBER 2026**

**DELIVERY OF ARTWORK: 28 – 31. JULY 2026**

### ABOUT UMI ARTS

UMI Arts is the lead Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultural organisation for Far North Queensland, and a not-for-profit company managed by an all-Indigenous Board of Directors. UMI Arts represents the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts community of Far North Queensland within the Torres Strait Islands, south to Cardwell, west to Camooweal and the Gulf and Mt Isa regions. UMI Arts is a signatory to the Australian Indigenous Art Code that preserves and promotes ethical trading in Indigenous Art. UMI Arts was established in 2005, and its mission is to operate an Indigenous organisation that assists Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to participate in the maintenance, preservation and protection of cultural identity. UMI is a Creole word meaning 'You and Me' – UMI Arts' goal is to strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural practices, including visual arts and crafts, dance, ceremony, storytelling, and music.

## PROJECT BRIEF FOR STUDENTS

Plan and create an artwork that expresses how you see your Culture - through your own eyes. This project invites you to share your identity, stories, and connections to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture in your own creative way.

Things to think about:

- How does your culture influence who you are today?
- How do you keep culture strong in your life and community?
- What story, knowledge, or experience would you like to share?
- How do you see the world around you?
- What is important to you, your family, or your community?

Use this theme as a starting point and explore your own ideas, symbols, and creative style.

Sketching ideas first is encouraged.

When your artwork is complete, write your **Artwork Story** and **Artist Biography**, and submit all materials to your **First Nations Officer, Art Teacher, or Program Coordinator**.

## ONLINE TUTORIALS FOR STUDENTS

### Acrylic Painting TIPS for Beginners - How to MIX COLORS

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gXAZ6b9y\\_Sw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gXAZ6b9y_Sw)

### Where to start? Colour mixing!

How To Blend with Acrylic Paint | Acrylic Art Tips for Beginners

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbF5uLjRLGI>

*Blending is very important and very fun!*

### 5 tips you should always follow when using acrylic paint

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1v18PL6fho>

*Your painting kits do not include gesso, but you can use white paint instead to prepare your canvas!*

### Colour Theory for Noobs | Beginner Guide

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvgCkHrcj90>

*This lesson on colour theory is not essential, but may be interesting to some curious students. Learning colour theory can really up your art game!*

### MOBILE PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS and TRICKS - Simple WAYS to CAPTURE BETTER PHOTOS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQymfKW34XY>

*Some great, creative and easy tricks you can use to take better photos every day.*

### 4 Framing & Composition Techniques for Beginners | Photography & Video Training

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKM3jkEOpuE>

*Framing makes a huge difference!*

### Visual Storytelling 101

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWQQgZh9EyE>

*This tutorial is relevant to both painting and photographic entries; the most interesting and useful tips are before timestamp 8.08)*

## **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

Culture Through Our Eyes – First Nations Youth Exhibition

This exhibition is open to First Nations students in Years 7–12 from selected schools and youth programs.

- Students must create their own original artwork
- Artwork should be recently made
- Work must be respectful and culturally appropriate
- Cultural stories, symbols, and language must be approved where required
- Not all artworks may be selected
- No fee is required

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

The student agrees to:

- Complete all forms
- Meet deadlines
- Provide safe, exhibition-ready artwork
- Follow teacher instructions
- Ensure spelling and cultural information is correct
- Participate in exhibition activities where possible, eg, Media Call and Launch
- Parent / Guardian permission is required for all students under 18.

## **UMI ARTS RESPONSIBILITIES**

UMI Arts will:

- Exhibit selected artworks
- Care for artworks during exhibition
- Photograph works for promotion
- Credit the artist
- Organise installation and opening event
- Return artworks after the exhibition

## **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Your application must include:

- Application checklist
- Parent consent form
- Media release
- Artist biography
- Artist statement/artwork story
- Image of artwork
- Student name on all forms
- Submit to your teacher or First Nations Officer.

**Send all documents to your Art Teacher or First Nations Officer.**

**The school Art Teacher will submit the completed applications to UMI Arts.**

## SALES & PAYMENT

Artworks in the **Culture Through Our Eyes** exhibition can be available for sale. If an artwork is sold, UMI Arts will add its **30% commission** to the artist's price.

As part of UMI Arts' policy, payment of sales is processed into your nominated bank account at the end of the month of sale.

If your artwork is for sale, please complete the details below.

### Payment details:

Account name: \_\_\_\_\_

Bank name: \_\_\_\_\_

BSB: \_\_\_\_\_

Account number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_



## STUDENT INFORMATION

<b>Full Name:</b>		
<b>Date of birth:</b>	<b>Clan Group:</b>	
<b>Cultural group / Language group:</b>	<b>Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander</b>	
<b>Year level: 7 / 8 / 9 / 10 / 11 / 12</b>	<b>School / Program:</b>	
<b>Mobile:</b>		
<b>Email:</b>		
<b>House Number:</b>	<b>Street:</b>	
<b>Suburb:</b>	<b>State:</b>	<b>Postcode:</b>
<b>Parent / Guardian Contact:</b>		
Parent / Guardian Name: .....		
Address: .....		
Phone No: .....		
Email: .....		
Relationship to student: .....		
<b>SCHOOL CONTACT</b>		
<b>Teacher / First Nations Officer / Program Coordinator:</b>		
<b>Name:</b> _____		
<b>School / Organisation:</b> _____		
<b>Phone:</b> _____		
<b>Email:</b> _____		
<b>PERMISSION</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Application checklist completed</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Media release signed</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Parent / Guardian consent form attached</b>		
<i>UMI Arts will use the contact details above to update the membership details on our database</i>		

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

When and where were you born? .....

Family / Clan / Language Group:.....

Totem (if you have one): .....

Country / Community you feel connected to: .....

How has your family history and culture influenced who you are?

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When did you begin creating art, and what inspired you to continue?

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Who or what inspires your artwork? (family, Elders, Country, artists, stories, community, etc.)

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What is your favourite medium or material to work with?

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What would you like to do after finishing school?

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Is there anything else you would like people to know about you or your artwork?

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## ARTIST STATEMENT

### Who or what inspired this artwork?

Did any artists, family members, Elders, stories, or personal experiences influence your idea?

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### What materials and techniques did you use to create the artwork?

(Paint, drawing, photography, digital art, sculpture, mixed media, etc.)

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### Describe your artwork.

Is it 2D or 3D? How should it be displayed? (indoor, outdoor, wall, floor, plinth, hanging, etc.)

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### Does your artwork include symbols, patterns, or cultural meanings?

If yes, explain what they represent.

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### What message or idea would you like to share with the audience?

This could be about your culture, family, community, identity, or something important to you.

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### Does your artwork connect to culture, community, identity, or life experiences?

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## ARTWORK INFORMATION

*For more than one artwork, please copy/print this page.  
Complete details for each artwork and attach to your EOI application for submission.*

<b>Artist Name:</b>		
<b>Title of Artwork:</b>		
<b>Medium:</b>		
<b>Year Created:</b>		
<b>Dimensions (cm):</b>	<b>Height:</b>	
	<b>Width:</b>	
	<b>Depth:</b>	
<b>Artist Sale Price</b>	<b>Price range:</b>	\$..... - \$.....

## ARTWORK STORY

What inspired you to create this artwork?

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What thoughts, feelings, or memories did you have while making this artwork?

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Does this artwork connect to your culture, family, or Country?

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Why is it important for you to keep culture, stories, or traditions strong through your art?

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What would you like people to feel, learn, or understand when they see your artwork?

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Anything else you would like to share about your artwork or your story?

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**MATERIALS**

UMI Arts encourages students to use good-quality materials so that artworks can be safely displayed during the exhibition.

Using suitable materials helps protect the artwork and keeps it in good condition while it is on display and after.

Please tick the materials you used to create your artwork.

<b>Paint</b>	Acrylic Paint	Oil Paint	Poster Paint	Markers/pens/ink	Other.....
<b>Surface / Support</b>	Canvas	Paper	Fabric	Cardboard	Other.....
<b>Print / Digital / Photo</b>	Printed on graphic paper	Photographic print	Digital print	Computer digital art	Other.....

**CULTURAL STYLES AND SYMBOLS**

Traditional Indigenous styles, techniques, motifs, symbols and their meanings in art can vary across regions and cultures. Some of these symbols can be endemic to particular cultural groups and are protected. Although UMI Arts makes every effort to ensure that all artwork is culturally appropriate, **it is the artist's responsibility to ensure that the use of traditional symbols and techniques is approved and appropriate.**

*Thank you for expressing your interest in exhibiting as part of the UMI Arts exhibition program!*

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

### Culture Through Our Eyes – First Nations Youth Exhibition 2026

Please check that all required sections are completed before submitting your application.

- I am the original creator of this artwork
- This artwork is my own work and does not copy another artist
- I have read and understood the Terms and Conditions
- I have completed all parts of the application form
- My artwork is safe to display and ready for exhibition
- I have used suitable materials so the artwork will last during the exhibition
- Any use of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander stories, symbols, language, or cultural knowledge has been approved where required
- Spelling of names, language, and cultural information is correct

### Required documents

- Student EOI completed
- Artist Biography completed
- Artist Statement completed
- Artwork Story completed
- Artwork Information page completed
- Parent / Guardian Consent Form signed
- Media Release signed

### Images

- Image of the artwork attached (finished or in progress)
- Student name written on artwork image

### Participation

- I understand that not all artworks may be selected
- I agree to meet deadlines set by UMI Arts or my school
- I agree to participate in exhibition activities where possible
- I understand my artwork will be returned after the exhibition

### Teacher / School check (if required)

- Forms checked by teacher / First Nations Officer / Program Coordinator

Name of student: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Culture Through Our Eyes – First Nations Youth Exhibition 2026

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (name of student artist),

Give permission for UMI Arts to photograph and/or make audio or video recordings of my artwork and my participation in UMI Arts activities related to the **‘Culture Through Our Eyes’ Exhibition 2026 - 2027**.

I understand that these images and recordings may be used by UMI Arts for promotional, educational, reporting, and archival purposes, including:

- social media
- website
- newsletters
- annual reports
- exhibition catalogue
- newspapers or other media
- 

UMI Arts will acknowledge the artist’s name whenever the artwork or image is used.

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

## Parent / Guardian Consent Form

### Culture Through Our Eyes – First Nations Youth Exhibition 2026

I give my child permission to participate in the UMI Arts exhibition program, Culture Through Our Eyes. This program allows First Nations students to create and exhibit their artwork in a professional gallery environment at UMI Arts Gallery, Manoora.

I understand that:

- My child's artwork may be exhibited as part of the Culture Through Our Eyes exhibition
- The exhibition will be open to the public
- Photographs or video recordings of the artwork and exhibition activities may be used for promotional, educational, and reporting purposes
- All artworks will be returned to the school or student after the exhibition
- My child must follow instructions from teachers, program coordinators, and UMI Arts staff

I confirm that I am the parent or legal guardian of the student named below and give permission for them to participate in this program.

#### Student details

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

School / Youth program: \_\_\_\_\_

Year level: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Parent / Guardian details

Parent / Guardian name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to student: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

#### ON COMPLETION, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM TO:

**Exhibitions Officer, UMI Arts**

**Phone:** (07) 4041 6152 |

**Email:** [exhibitions@umiarts.com.au](mailto:exhibitions@umiarts.com.au) | **Web:** [www.umiarts.com.au](http://www.umiarts.com.au)

**Address:** Shop 4, 1 Jensen Street, MANOORA, QLD 4870

**Postal Address:** PO Box 15044, EDGE HILL 4870

*Thank you for expressing your interest in exhibiting as part of the UMI Arts exhibition program!*