



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST 'FRESHWATER SALTWATER' 2026

GROUP MEMBERS EXHIBITION

EXHIBITION THEME/RATIONALE

'Freshwater Saltwater' is UMI Arts signature annual group exhibition showcasing major new artworks by our mid-career and established member artists. The title reflects a metaphorical ideology of mainland Aboriginal custodians, reliant on and connected to freshwater, and Torres Strait Islanders who are surrounded by and connected to saltwater. The constant movement and flowing adaptability of watercourses also reminds us of the strength and endurance of the people of the First Nations, who work to keep culture and connection to country alive in an ever-changing world. Open to work in any medium.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

EOI APPLICATIONS OPEN: 1 DECEMBER 2025

EOI APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 30 APRIL 2026

Delivery of artworks: 5 – 8 May 2026

Launch 3. July / 6 pm

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 that means 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.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Applicant must be a member of UMI Arts. Member artists must either live and work in Far North Queensland and identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, with a bloodline connection to a cultural group within the UMI Arts area that extends north of Cairns to include the Torres Strait Islands, south to Cardwell, west to Camooweal and includes the Gulf and Mt Isa regions.
- UMI Arts will accept only new artworks completed within 12 months of submission that have not been exhibited previously.
- New artworks can be proposed by an individual artist or a group of Indigenous artists collaborating and working on a related theme.
- UMI Arts reserves the right to exclude an artist's artwork if it is deemed offensive or inappropriate for public exhibition.
- Artists retain all Copyright, although your work may be published by UMI Arts in the exhibition catalogue or social media to promote your artist profile and the exhibition.
- UMI Arts will only represent the artist's original artworks, which the artist does not intend to reproduce digitally as prints. (Larger than A3 format).
- Artists must meet all deadlines, otherwise it may result in withdrawing your EOI application.
- Not all artworks will necessarily be selected for this exhibition. Artworks selected for this exhibition will be at the sole discretion of the Gallery Curator, and the decision made is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
- There are no fees required with this Expression of Interest application.

SALES & PAYMENT

All artworks submitted for exhibition must be available for sale.

UMI Arts will determine a Recommended Retail Price (RRP) at a realistic fair market value calculated using the Artist Price nominated in the EOI application. Artists can expect payments (70% commission from sale) to be received into their nominated bank account within 30 days from the date of purchase (Subject to ABN, correct bank details being provided, sales being paid for in full by the purchaser and sales reports for the month being provided).

THE ARTIST AGREES TO:

- Submit complete artist and artwork information for publication.
- Ensure spelling and grammar are correct as submitted; although the Curator will edit at their discretion, *it is the artist's responsibility to follow correct procedures for the use and spelling of Indigenous languages in artwork stories and information.* Although UMI Arts makes best efforts to ensure all artwork is culturally appropriate, it is also the artist's *responsibility to ensure any use of traditional symbols and techniques is approved and appropriate.*
- Provide artworks ready for installation (canvas stretched and prepared for hanging with two D-rings on the sides and wired, papers framed and prepared for hanging with two D-rings on the sides and wired, sculptures suitable for safe positioning on plinths, etc.).
- exhibition and UMI Arts.
- Safely package and protect artworks for transit to UMI Arts and freight artworks, at your expense, to and from UMI Arts.
- Ensure that the artwork is safe for handling and/or has been treated appropriately (e.g., wooden, fibre, or metal sculpture).

- Collect unsold artworks, which will be stored at UMI Arts for 90 days after the exhibition closes. After this date, artworks become the property of UMI Arts.
- Submitted artworks should not be published before the exhibition's official opening (Facebook, Instagram and TikTok)
- Not mark artworks with any price

UMI ARTS AGREES TO:

- Insure artworks for the period of the exhibition and until collection of artworks by artist from UMI Arts.
- Provide 24-hour security surveillance of the works for the period of the exhibition and monitor environmental control.
- Not be responsible for the use and spelling errors of languages provided by the artist.
- Cover costs of Administration and Curatorial services.
- Cover the costs of the exhibition, signage & promotion, installation of works and exhibition launch event.
- Cover costs to photograph selected artworks for use in the exhibition, catalogue, social media, PR, annual report, newsletter only.
- Manage all sales and administration
- Freight works using our vehicle and trailer to the exhibition venue (if required).

YOUR APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE:

- Materials Checklist (p. 10)
- Signed Expression of Interest (p. 11)
- Signed Media Release (p. 11)
- Completed Artist Information, Biography, and Statement (p. 4 - 7)
- Completed Artwork Information and Story (p. 8 - 9)
- Image of artwork (in progress or completed) in JPG format, max 2 MB. *Labelled with clear file caption: Full name_Title of artwork_year when you finished the artwork*
- Recent portrait photo max 2MB

Send all together to UMI Arts Gallery & Exhibition Officer by e-mail:
exhibitions@umiarts.com.au

ARTIST INFORMATION

Title: Miss / Ms / Mrs / Mr (please circle)		
Name:	Gender:	
Date of birth:	Place of Birth:	
Cultural Group:	Clan Group:	
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	(please circle)	
Telephone:	Fax Number:	
Mobile:	Work Number:	
Email:		
House Number:	Street:	
Suburb:	State:	Postcode:
Next of Kin/Alternative contact		
Name:.....		
Address:.....		
Phone No:.....		
Email:.....		
Relationship:.....		
BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS		
Bank Name:.....		
Name on Account:.....		
BSB:	Account No:.....	
ABN:.....		
<small>* If you do not have an ABN, you must provide a 'Statement by Supplier'.</small>		
Postal Address (if different):		
.....		
<i>UMI Arts will use the contact details above to update the membership details on our database</i>		

Are you represented by an Agent? Yes No *If yes, Agent to complete below:*

Agent Name	
Agent Company Name	
Phone Number	
Email address	

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

When and where you are born?.....

Clan:

Language:

Region: Totem:

How has your family history and culture influenced you?

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

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What sort of art you do now, and what is the theme/subject/medium (painting, print, sculpture)?

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What art-related education have you undertaken, and what qualifications do you have?

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Summarise any previous exhibitions and awards.

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Summarise any art-related or community projects you have been involved in.

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ARTIST STATEMENT

Who or what inspired you to do art? Do any artists influence you? Do personal experiences inspire you?

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What materials were used when creating the artwork?

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How does it exist in space? Is it 2D or 3D? Do you prefer a big or small format/dimensions of artwork? Where you can see your artwork (ex. Inside, outside, private, public art ...)

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Do you have a symbolism in the artwork?

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Do you have something to tell the audience through your work, a message, a family story, or a vision of the society in which you live?

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Does your art respond to current or historical events? Is it political or personal (or both)?

Is your own identity important in your work? Does it address contexts such as culture or others?

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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.*

Artist Name:		
Title of Artwork:		
Medium:		
Year Created:		
Dimensions (cm):	Height:	
	Width:	
	Depth:	
Cultural Sensitivity: Credit/courtesy line:		
Artist Price Range:	Between \$..... .00 and \$..... .00	

ARTWORK STORY

What was your starting inspiration for this artwork?

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What were your central feelings/or memories while you were working on this artwork?

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How can you describe feelings of importance to keeping the traditions and memories in your artwork practice?

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Other:

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MATERIALS

Many art buyers who invest in Aboriginal art expect that the artwork will retain its quality over time as much as possible and has the potential to increase in value. At UMI Arts, we strive to promote our member’s artwork as professional, authentic, and of the highest standard; ensuring all products and artworks sold at UMI Arts are created using high-quality materials is an essential part of this process.

Please circle which professional quality mediums you have used to create your artwork:

Paint	Professional quality acrylic or oil	Light fast pigment	High pigment load	Protective varnish	
Canvas	Acid-free canvas	Primed with acrylic gesso	Stapled on back (not side)	Undercoated front and sides	7oz/350gsm or above
Print on paper	Professional quality ink	Light fast pigment	Rub resistance	Archival acid-free paper	

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 best efforts to ensure 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.**

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Are you the **original creator** of this work?
- Are you the **copyright owner** of this work?
- Are you a **member of UMI Arts?** (*applications will only be accepted from UMI members*)
- You have read and understood the **Terms and Conditions** of the application.
- You have completed **all sections** of the application where possible.
- Your work has been created using **professional-standard materials** to ensure longevity.
- You have ensured any use of traditional Indigenous symbols, motifs and techniques is **approved and culturally appropriate**, and any Indigenous stories, spelling and grammar are correct, approved, and culturally appropriate.
- You have provided with your application:
 - Up to 5x high-res images of your art or product
 - Current Artist and/or Business Biography/Statement
 - Recent portrait photo and/or business logo
- You will make best efforts to participate in **media sessions** and assist UMI Arts in promoting Exhibition where possible.
- UMI Arts will **receive your artworks delivered to the UMI Arts Gallery by Artwork Delivery deadline (see cover page).**

Media Release

I, (*name of artist/company*) give permission for UMI Arts to make a photographic/audio-visual recording of my art and my participation in UMI Arts activities. I understand and authorise this material to be reproduced by UMI Arts for any promotional and educational purposes. UMI Arts will acknowledge me by the name stated above whenever images or records of me and my work are reproduced by them or their agents and/or contractors for promotional and educational purposes (e.g. social media; annual report, newsletter, newspaper).

Signed Date

Expression of Interest: 'Freshwater Saltwater' Exhibition 2026

Signed Date

ON COMPLETION, PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM TO:

Exhibitions Officer, UMI Arts

Phone: (07) 4041 6152 | **Fax:** (07) 4041 6542

Email: exhibitions@umiarts.com.au | **Web:** 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!