



NAOMI HOBSON
Language of the Land



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27 May – 10 June 2023

Opening Event, Friday 26 May, 6 – 8pm

'Language of the Land' is painted in concert with the natural landscapes of her Country – from the rainforests to the grasslands, and hinterlands traveling down to the coast and its precious reefs. The works have travelled from Coen, a small and close-knit community of about 360 people in Cape York. This town, where Hobson lives and creates her work, is built on the Country of the Kaantju peoples, her maternal family line. It is just south of the saltwater Country of the Umpila people, Hobson's patrilineal ancestors. Hobson communicates this deeply felt history and future through her painting.

A member of a dynamic new generation of First Nations artists, Hobson works from a position of both humility and pride. This dual sensibility reflects her two guiding stars of Country and community.

My Aboriginality is what grounds me. Through art I get to freely express all of this. I can share my creative freedoms in a contemporary way. My style also reflects my individuality ... I want my work to tell my stories in an innovative way.

Hobson is a figure of affection within the town of Coen, known to residents and to visitors alike as a local leader in the arts, as well as in land care organisations. In July 2022, after a thirty year campaign, Cape York Traditional Owners have reconnected with their land, culture and history as part of four historic determinations which saw nearly 1.5 million hectares of land recognised under native title.

This historic moment in Indigenous land rights has had a profound impact for Hobson and her community of Coen. The paintings featured in 'Language of the Land' bring the messages from nature which her community lives by to new audiences: to share a way of life, and a way of being, that is joyful, sustainable, and focused on preserving the land for future generations of all cultures.

Hobson has exhibited widely both within Australia and internationally since 2008. She was awarded the Geelong Contemporary Art Prize in 2022 and the Mecca X NGV Collaboration Acquisition Award in 2021. Her work is currently featured in the Wynne Prize 2023 at the Art Gallery of NSW and on display at the National Portrait Gallery as part of Portrait 23. Hobson's photography was exhibited at the Art Gallery of South Australia in 2021 and in Photo Australia's International Festival of Photography in 2022.

Hobson's work has been acquired by institutions including the Art Gallery of NSW, Museum of Contemporary Art, National Gallery of Australia, National Gallery of Victoria, Art Gallery of South Australia, Queensland Art Gallery of Modern Art, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Shepparton Art Museum, Bendigo Art Gallery and Cairns Art Gallery, and was recently the subject of a major tapestry commission produced with the Australian Tapestry Workshop for the Australian Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia.



Mist on the McIlwraith

acrylic on linen

209 x 250 cm

\$36,000



Wiimu: Red Ant I

terracotta, white slip, sgraffito technique

49.5 x 19 x 9 cm

\$4,950



Wiimu: Red Ant II

terracotta, white slip, sgraffito technique

41.5 x 19 x 8.5 cm

\$4,950

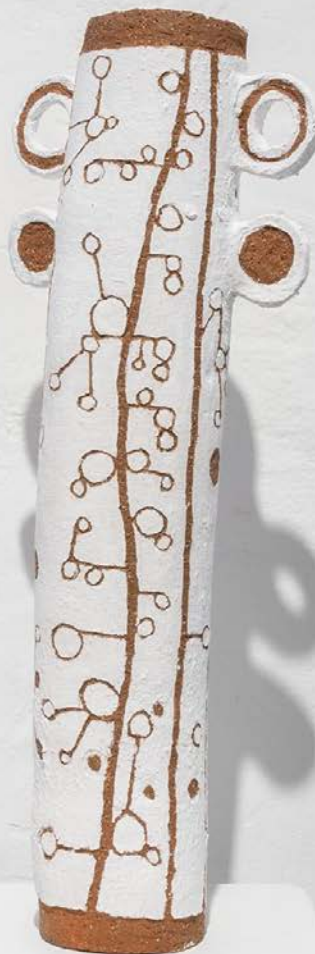


Wiimu: Red Ant III

terracotta, white slip, sgraffito technique

49 x 19 x 10 cm

\$4,950



Bushfire Came Through Here

acrylic on linen

208 x 208 cm

\$28,000



Glass Tide, You Can See the Reef Off the Island

acrylic on linen

143.5 x 162 cm

\$15,500



Glass Tide, You Can See the Reef Off the Island

acrylic on linen

143.5 x 162 cm

\$15,500



Sandy River Beds Collect the Fallen Leaves from the Flying Fox

acrylic on linen

162 x 143 cm

\$15,500



North West Monsoon in the Horizon

acrylic on linen

141.5 x 161 cm

\$15,500



North West Monsoon in the Horizon

acrylic on linen

141.5 x 161 cm

\$15,500

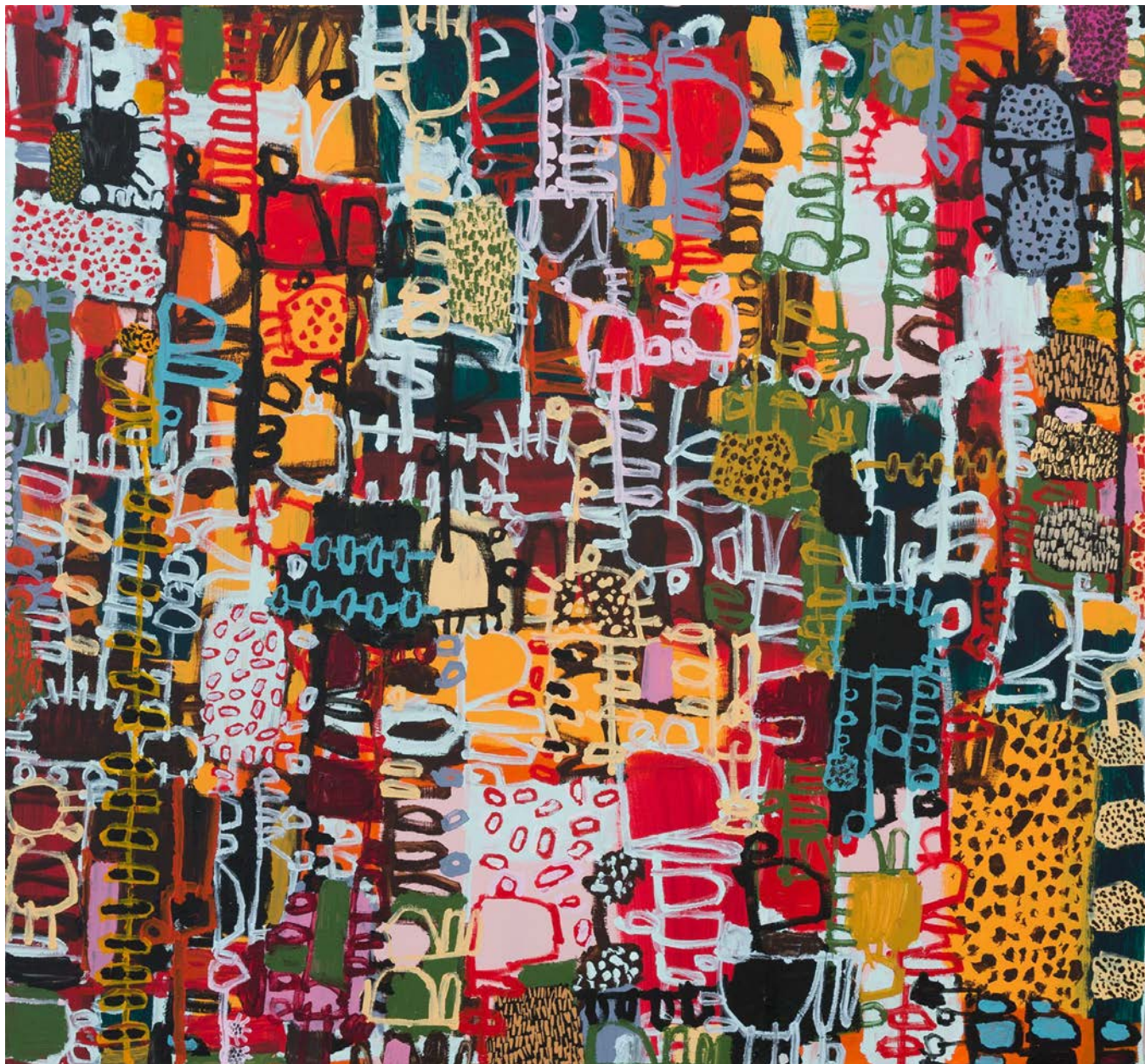


Where the River Grows Shallow

acrylic on linen

150 x 162 cm

\$16,500



Gum Blossom Flowering on the Wetlands are Filled with Rosellas

acrylic on linen

150.5 x 100 cm

\$11,500



The Native Stork Picks its Way About the Sand and Dives its Beak Below Water for Fish

acrylic on linen

150.5 x 100 cm

\$11,500





Grass Burning in the Night
acrylic on linen
150.5 x 100 cm
\$11,500



Coastal Rain Coming in Off the Coast

acrylic on linen

150.5 x 132 cm

\$14,000





Rainbow Parrots Chattering Upside Down in the Honey-Laden Blossoms

acrylic on linen

151.5 x 132 cm

\$14,000



Storm Clouds Gather off the Coast

acrylic on linen

200.5 x 211.5 cm

\$28,000



Golden Wattle Among Eucalyptus

acrylic on linen

181 x 182 cm

\$22,500

Featured as a finalist in the Art Gallery of New South Wales Wynne Prize

6 May – 3 September 2023

Followed by Wynne Prize Regional Tour

22 September 2023 – 16 June 2024



Golden Wattle Among Eucalyptus

acrylic on linen

181 x 182 cm

\$22,500

75



Angel Wings (ed. of 5)
photographic print on 310gsm cotton rag art paper
82 x 116 cm (framed)
\$5,700



Girlfriends (ed. of 5)
photographic print on 310gsm cotton rag art paper
82 x 116 cm (framed)
\$5,700



A Bed No-more (ed. of 5)
photographic print on 310gsm cotton rag art paper
82 x 116 cm (framed)
\$5,700



Super Soakers (ed. of 5)
photographic print on 310gsm cotton rag art paper
82 x 116 cm (framed)
\$5,700



NAOMI HOBSON

Born 1978, Coen, Australia

AWARDS, GRANTS & RESIDENCIES

- 2023 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Finalist
Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize, NSW, Finalist
- 2022 Geelong Art Prize, VIC, Winner
- 2021 Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize, NSW, Finalist
- 2020 41st Alice Prize, NT, Finalist
- 2019 Guirguis New Art Prize, Federation University Australia, Finalist
Sunshine Coast Art Prize, QLD, Finalist
'Royal Harvest', painting weaved by Australian Tapestry Workshop for 10th Embassy Tapestry
- 2018 Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, QLD, Photography Award, Winner
- 2017 Sunshine Coast Art Prize, QLD, Finalist
Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, QLD, Ceramics Award, Highly Commended (Malkarti Poles)
- 2016 39th Alice Prize, NT, Winner
33rd Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award, NT, Finalist
Geelong Contemporary Art Prize, VIC, Finalist
Len Fox Painting Award, Castlemaine Art Museum, VIC, Finalist
- 2015 32nd Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award, NT, Finalist
- 2014 Gold Coast Art Prize, QLD, Finalist
31st Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award, NT, Finalist
- 2013 Gold Coast Art Prize, QLD, Finalist

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 'Language of the Land', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2023 'I Dream of Country', Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2022 'Grounded in Nature', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
'Adolescent Wonderland', Cement Fondu, Sydney, NSW
- 2021 'January First', Suzanne O'Connell, Brisbane, QLD
'Naomi Hobson in Exhibition', the Ian Potter Centre, NGV, Melbourne, VIC
- 2020 'Payamu – To Shine', Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, VIC

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- 2019 'Adolescent Wonderland', Cairns Art Gallery, QLD
 - 'Naomi Hobson, Clay Poles', IWAYI, Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, QLD
 - 'Journey to the East', Suzanne O'Connell, Brisbane, QLD
- 2018 'Times Have Changed', Suzanne O'Connell, Brisbane, QLD
 - 'New Beginnings', ReDot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore
- 2017 'Naomi Hobson', Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
 - 'Time and Place: Naomi Hobson', Art Mob Aboriginal Fine Art, Hobart, TAS
- 2016 'Kanichi – On Top People', Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2015 'Ngaachi Ngunama – Story Place', Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2014 'Seven Sisters and the Bonefish Story', Depot II Gallery represented by Alcaston Gallery, Sydney, NSW
 - 'Ngaachi Paapa – My Mother's Country', Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2013 'I am Yikan', Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 'Paper & Clay', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2022 Arthouse Gallery Group Show at Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Sydney, NSW
 - 'Photo 2022 – Being Human' (International Festival of Photography), Melbourne, VIC
- 2021 'Coming Home', Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
 - 'Ritual, the Past in the Present', Cairns Art Gallery, QLD
 - 'Viewpoints: Contemporary Aboriginal Photography', State Library of Queensland, Brisbane, QLD
- 2020 'Know My Name', National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, ACT
 - 'The Women's Show', Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
 - '15 Artists', Redcliffe City Art Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
 - 'Open Hands', Tarnanthi Art Festival, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA
 - 'Chromatopia', Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA
 - 'Re-Imagining: Between Traditions & Innovations', Cairns Art Gallery, QLD
 - 'Get Up, Stand Up', Queensland Art Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA), Brisbane, QLD
- 2019 'Body Politics: Contemporary Works from the Collection', Bendigo Art Gallery, VIC
 - 'I, OBJECT', Queensland Art Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA), Brisbane, QLD
 - 'Journey Through Culture', ReDot Fine Art Gallery, Tarnanthi Art Festival, Adelaide, SA
- 2018 'San Francisco Tribal & Textile Art Fair: Art of Asia, Africa, Oceania & the Americans', San Francisco, CA, USA

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- 2018 'Mixed Blood – Contemporary Indigenous Cultural Expression', Tanks Art Centre, Cairns, QLD
 - 'Naomi Hobson & the Kalan Clay House', Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal, QLD
 - 'From Bark to Neon: Indigenous Art from the NGV Collection', National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, VIC
- 2017 'the Extractive Frontier: Mining for Art', Castlemaine, VIC
 - 'Time & Tide', Alcaston Gallery as part of the Art+Climate=Change 2017 Festival, Melbourne, VIC
 - 'Alcaston Gallery Group Show', Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal, QLD
 - Alcaston Gallery Group Show at Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Sydney, NSW
 - 'Australasian Painters 2007 – 2017: Artist Profile 10th Anniversary', Orange Regional Gallery, NSW
- 2016 'Provenance Does Matter – the Collector's Exhibition', Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
 - Alcaston Gallery Group Show at DENFAIR, Melbourne Exhibition Centre, VIC
 - 'Provenance Does Matter – Living with Contemporary Art', Alcaston Gallery at Gallery 369, Bendigo, VIC
 - 'All About Art', Alcaston Gallery at Depot Gallery, Sydney, NSW
 - 'Kinship, Country & Women's Australian Indigenous Art', International Education Services, Indigenous Art Collection, Brisbane, QLD
- 2015 'Goma Q', Queensland Art Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA), Brisbane, QLD
 - 'Out of QLD: New Indigenous Textiles', Cairns Regional Gallery, QLD
 - Alcaston Gallery Group Show at Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Sydney, NSW
 - 'All About Art: Brisbane', White Canvas Gallery, represented by Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
 - 'ArtNow Far North Queensland', Cairns Regional Gallery, QLD
- 2014 'Masterpiece London', South Grounds, the Royal Hospital, London, UK
 - 'Alcaston Gallery Group Show', Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal, QLD
- 2013 'Ngampula Kuunchi – We Are Family', Lockhart River Art Group, Emerge Art Space, Inglewood, WA
 - 'Kinship, a Celebration of Fine Art from Far North Queensland Indigenous Art Centres, Tank Art Centre, Cairns, NT
 - 'Land & Water/Ancient & Modern: Contemporary Paintings from Lockhart River', Booker Lowe Gallery, Houston, Texas, USA
- 2012 'Lockhart River Art', Art Atrium, Westfield Bondi Junction, Sydney, NSW
 - 'Cairns Indigenous Art Fair', Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal, QLD
- 2009 'Some of Us', Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide, SA
 - 'Taralinga', Woolloongabba Art Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
 - 'Group Show', Smith and Hall, Sydney, NSW
 - 'Group Show', Australian & Oceanic Art Gallery, Port Douglas, QLD

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COLLABORATIONS

Collaboration with Mecca Cosmetica & the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV)

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Araluen Art Collection, Alice Springs, NT

Art Gallery of New South Wales, NSW

Art Gallery of South Australia, SA

ArtBank

Bendigo Art Gallery, VIC

Cairns Art Gallery, QLD

Cairns Regional Council Collection, QLD

HOTA (Home of the Arts), QLD

International Education Services, Indigenous Art Collection, QLD

Leeuwin Estate Collection, WA

Macquarie University Art Collection, NSW

Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, NT

Museum of Contemporary Art, NSW

National Gallery of Australia, ACT

National Gallery of Victoria, VIC

Queensland Art Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA), QLD

Shepparton Art Museum, VIC

State Library of Queensland, Brisbane, QLD

Stuartholme School, QLD

Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre

The Royal Children's Hospital, Brisbane & Melbourne

US Consul General, QLD

Viva Energy Collection



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Photograph by Jacky Kao

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