

onespace

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LIST OF WORKS

1	<i>As the rains fell and the seas rose</i> Linocut printed in black ink from one block. Edition A/P. 62 x 112.5cm	2011	\$2,500.00
2	<i>A lineage of forefathers</i> Linocut printed in black ink from two blocks. Edition 2/16. 60 x 114cm	2015	\$1,800.00
3	<i>With great power comes great responsibility</i> Linocut printed in black ink from one block. Edition 1/15. 156 x 75cm	2016	\$3,500.00
4	<i>Warriors Sorcerers and Spirits</i> Linocut printed in black ink from one block. Edition 3/15. 60.5 x 114cm	2015	\$1,800.00
5	<i>I know the voices in my head aren't real but sometimes their ideas are just absolutely awesome</i> Linocut printed in black ink from one block. Edition 2/15. 165 x 75cm	2016	\$3,500.00
6	<i>Navigating narrative - Nemo's encounter in the Torres Strait</i> Linocut printed in black ink from one block. Edition A/P. 56 x 109cm	2012	\$2,500.00
7	<i>Waru Kazi I</i> Linocut printed in black ink from one block. A/P NFS. Editions 6-15/15 available. 50cm diameter	2015	\$1,500.00
8	<i>Waru Kazi II</i> Linocut printed in black ink from one block. A/P NFS. Editions 6-15/15 available. 50cm diameter	2015	\$1,500.00
9	<i>Waru Kazi III</i> Linocut printed in black ink from one block. A/P NFS. Editions 6-15/15 available. 50cm diameter	2015	\$1,500.00
10	<i>You will travel in a land of marvels</i> Linocut printed in black ink from one block. Edition 2/15. 46 x 65.5cm	2015	\$800.00
11	<i>Charms to defeat the kracken</i> Linocut printed in black ink from one block. Edition 2/15. 98 x 59cm	2015	\$1,600.00
12	<i>Up in the heavens</i> Linocut printed in black ink from one block. Edition 2/15. 60.5 x 114cm	2015	\$1,800.00
13	<i>Krar-Aimai 101</i> Linocut printed in black ink from one block. Edition 14/15. 70 x 40cm	2015	\$1,500.00
14	<i>Drafting our concoctions</i> Linocut printed in black ink from two blocks. Edition 1/15. 60 x 112cm	2016	\$1,800.00
15	<i>A chalice of fruit rose from the waves beckoning them to kaikai</i> Linocut printed in black ink from two blocks. Edition A/P + 1/1. 47 x 80cm	2014	\$1,800.00
16	<i>Warual</i> Linocut printed in black ink from one block. A/P + Editions 1-5/5 available. 150cm diameter	2014	\$3,500.00

Price is for unframed prints and includes GST

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Brian Robinson, Warriors, Sorcerers + Spirits (detail), 2015, linocut printed in black ink on paper, 60.5cm x 114 cm, edition 3 of 15.

BRIAN ROBINSON

Myth & Marvel

1-24 December 2016

Brian Robinson's *Myth & Marvel*

Myth & Marvel profiles recent work by celebrated Torres Strait Islander artist Brian Robinson. It is also Robinson's first ever solo show in Brisbane.

Robinson's exhibition, *Myth & Marvel*, a series of dramatic linocut prints, describes the unique cultural fusion in which he works. This lively and imaginative aesthetic has marked Robinson's mature artistry, which combines mythology from all over the world with Marvel super heroes. It is compelling viewing, dark, exuberant and alive. Its undercurrent is suggestive that, in a period of division, peoples all over the world share more than they don't. Eclectic sources render the power of popular culture a curious equal to that of the traditional legends that have defined us.

These linocuts combine his two dominant themes. In *Lineage of Forefathers*, a skull that refers to the head-hunting practices of his Torres Strait Islander ancestors is cradled in the hand of a Thor style superhero. In another, *You will travel in a land of Marvels*, cupid emerges from Torres Strait Islander patterns, looping the Superman motif to other stylised Marvel and DC symbols.

Robinson says, "I draw on mythology worldwide and make parallels that cross different cultures. Objects and themes from Torres Strait myths are mixed with other well-known narratives, and legends like the *Noah's Ark and the great floods*, *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea and Adam and Eve*. These works were made from 2011 to the present, and include new works that haven't been seen outside of Cairns."

Ever since Robinson was a boy – sitting in a Catholic church, looking around at biblical narratives – an interest in the Western art historical tradition has driven his aesthetic explorations. Influences as varied as comics, toys and popular culture, are visible, combined through his, "weird and wonderful imagination... I'm just a big kid really".

One of the most influential artists of his generation, important international recognition has come in 2016 with his spectacular *Malu Githalayl* (colourful patterned giant crabs) installed on the exterior of the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco as part of the major exhibition, *AUSTRALIA: Defending the Oceans at the Heart of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Art* (March–September 2016). Also in the world view is Robinson's monumental six metre by eleven metre *Citizens Gateway* (currently under development), which will be at the heart of a project for the newly formed global social movement, Citizens of the Great Barrier Reef. To be sited on the Cairns Esplanade, this major public sculpture will acknowledge the cultural and environmental importance of the reef with a global audience.

A constant in Robinson's practice is an insistence on being seen as an artist (rather than an Indigenous artist). "I absorb from the entire spectrum of visual paraphernalia that the world offers."

Louise Martin-Chew

Artist Biography



Brian Robinson. Photo: Maria Prada.

Brian Robinson is of the Kala Lagaw Ya and Wuthathi language groups of the Torres Strait. Born on Waiben (Thursday Island) and now Cairns-based, Robinson is known for his printmaking and public sculptures in which he uses a variety of techniques to produce bold, innovative and distinctive works. Robinson is amongst the most innovative of his generation and his artistic career has traced a highly individual path. His work observes the traditions and styles of the Torres Strait, but also the influence of Western art history and wide-ranging graphic traditions.

In recent years it is his public art practice that has brought him mainstream attention. Recent commissions include *Warual* for the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital and *Kolap Spinning Tops* for the Saylor Family Park in Western Australia in 2014; *Woven Wonders of the Reef* at Skygate, Brisbane Airport and *Urban Bloom and Deco Bloom* in Mackay in 2015; and *Malu Githalayl* at the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco in 2016.

His work has also featured in many exhibitions nationally and internationally, including in Berlin, Noumea, Washington DC, and most recently:

- *Pacific Crosscurrents*, Cairns Regional Gallery [2016]
- *TABA NABA: Australia Defending the Oceans at the Heart of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Art*, Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, Monaco [2016]
- *TARNANTHI | Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art*, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide SA [2015]
- *GOMA Q: Contemporary Queensland Art*, GOMA, Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art [2015]
- *Saltwater Country*, Gold Coast City Art Gallery [2014]
- *SOLID! Queensland Contemporary Indigenous Sculpture*, Cairns Regional Gallery [2014] and
- *Land, Sea and Sky: Contemporary Art of the Torres Strait*, at the Queensland Art Gallery [2011].

Robinson's work is held in major collections including National Gallery of Australia; the Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art; Tjibaou Cultural Centre, Noumea, New Caledonia; the Australian National Maritime Museum; and the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection, Virginia, USA; Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin NT; Museum of Contemporary Aboriginal Art, Utrecht, The Netherlands; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne VIC; and the National Museum of Australia, Canberra ACT.