

ELCHO ISLAND ARTS

Elcho Island, located in the Arafura Sea off the coast of north-east Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory, is a place unlike any other on earth.

Blessed with a rugged yet beautiful tropical landscape – stunning beaches, aqua seas, cycad forests, unique wildlife and rare rock formations – it is home to the Yolngu people and their rich and beguiling culture.

Approximately 550 km north-east of Darwin, Elcho Island is known worldwide for its many cultural exports. Famous artists who call Elcho Island home include ARIA award-winning musician Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu, the cheeky Chooky Dancers and hundreds of visual artists who create traditional and authentic Aboriginal art that is exhibited and held in major collections nationally and internationally.

Elcho Island Arts operates out of the Marthakal Arts Hub in Galiwin'ku (the main town on the island). The Arts Hub, which is situated on a cliff offering stunning panoramic views of the town's main beach and surrounding islands, has two galleries, a retail outlet, an artist's workshop and offices.

Community operated since 1992, the primary function of Elcho Island Arts is to support Yolngu artists in sharing their culture and deriving an income from their creative endeavours. This is achieved through the collection, promotion and distribution of authentic Aboriginal art and craft to a range of markets in Australia and overseas.

Over its history Elcho Island Arts has developed a strong reputation for the quality of work produced by its artists, their respect of clan totems, originality of design and the utilisation of traditional bush materials and natural earth pigments.



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Marthakal Arts Hub
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2010 HIGHLIGHTS:

4 Feb – 28 Mar	<i>Yuta Badayala – In A New Light</i> Object Gallery, Sydney
26 Mar – 24 Apr	<i>Dharri Wundangarryi – Standing Proud & Strong</i> Chapman Gallery, Canberra
From 16 Apr	<i>Soft Sculpture</i> Object Gallery, Darwin
May – Jun	<i>Elcho Etchings</i> Nomad Gallery, Darwin
Jul – Aug	<i>Morning Star Poles by Gali Yalkarriwuy Gurruiwi</i> Chiaroscuro Gallery, Santa Fe
Jul	<i>Elcho Group Show</i> Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London

Other planned exhibitions for the second half of 2010 include an exhibition of carvings at Birrung Gallery in Sydney, and group exhibitions of work by artists from Elcho Island at Booker Lowe Gallery in Houston, Texas and Alcaston Gallery in Melbourne.

CURRENT ARTISTS:

Elcho Island Arts works with more than 150 established and emerging artists. Currently among the most successful, collected and exhibited are: Gali Yalkarriwuy Gurruiwi, Mavis Warrngilna Ganambarr, Jeremiah Bonson, Henry Nupurra, Peter Datjing, Judy Manany, Tommy Minburra, Margaret Gudumurrkuwuy, Richard Gandhuwuy, Rosemary Mamuniny, David Djarrka, Wendy Galanini, Joe Manyguluma, Roselyn Malngumba, Sandy Pascoe, Phyllis Batumbil.

COMMERCIAL GALLERY PARTNERS:

Alcaston Gallery (Melbourne), Birrung Gallery (Sydney), Outstation Gallery (Darwin), Chapman Gallery (Canberra), Nomad Gallery (Darwin), Koskela (Sydney), Rebecca Hossack Gallery (London).

ACCESS:

Open Monday to Friday or by appointment. Daily air services are offered to Elcho Island from Darwin. Charters and boats welcome and visitor accommodation and transport are available.

Clockwise from top left:
Phyllis Batumbil, *Pandanas Mat*.
Jeremiah Bonson, *Wirrah Bun Bun Spirit Men*.
Peter Datjing, *Gumatj Fire Diamon*. Painting.
Mavis Warrngilna Ganambarr, *Fibre and Bushstring Handbag*.

