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Art Fairs Huge Success for Torres Strait Art and Culture

The Torres Strait Regional Authority's (TSRA) Gab Titui Cultural Centre and three outer island art centres successfully represented the Torres Strait at the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair earlier last month.

Thousands of visitors attended the fair in a celebration of Queensland's Indigenous cultures, with works and performances from Erub Arts, Badu Island Art and Moa Art providing a unique insight into the culture of the region.

The TSRA Chairman, Mr Joseph Elu, said the fair was an exciting opportunity for the organisation to come together with other art centres and some of the world's leading collectors and curators.

"The Cairns Indigenous Art Fair is attended by visitors not only from the region but from across the nation and around the world, and Gab Titui attends the fair each year as part of the Centre's touring and outreach initiatives," Mr Elu said.

"Congratulations need to be extended to Moa Art, Badu Island Art and Erub Arts whose presence at the fair was widely appreciated, and in particular to Erub Arts whose participation in the hugely popular fashion performance *Birrimbi Dulgu Bajal (Sea and Rainforest Dreaming)* unveiled new pieces from their Ailan Pasin range."

For the first time the fair was curated by new Artistic Director, Janina Harding in collaboration with curator, writer and ABC Art+Soul creator Hetti Perkins, and included a curated exhibition as well as an art market.

The weekend-long celebrations included multiple performances by Saam Karem Era Kodo Mer dance team from Erub, the successful applicant for the 2015 TSRA Torres Strait Dance Strategy.

TSRA Portfolio Member for Culture, Art and Heritage, Mr Aven Noah, said Saam Karem Era Kodo Mer was selected through a highly competitive process by a panel that included Ms Harding.

"Standout performances by the team at the opening night event and throughout the weekend were a highlight of the fair and will no doubt open doors to other opportunities for the team outside the region," Mr Noah said.

For more information on the fair visit www.ciaf.com.au.



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