



Originally an historic home, Linden New Art is a unique gallery whose restrictions become starting points for artists to explore, respond and create.

> INTRODUCTION

As a home for new art we are open to bold ideas, to different ways of experiencing and seeing the world and oneself. We believe this role is an important part of contemporary art and we aim to foster a curious audience

that is open to engaging with new thinking and sometimes challenging viewpoints.

Alick Tipoti's exhibition 'Lagangu' (from the islands) represents a key shift in Linden's programming to focus on presenting solo exhibitions by mid career artists. We believe this shift provides a significant opportunity for audiences to learn about and support the work of these artists and to ensure that Linden assists in supporting a vibrant cultural life.

Linden is delighted to be presenting the work of renowned Torres Strait Islander artist Alick Tipoti as part of our annual Indigenous exhibition program. The driving force behind Alick's passion for creating art is cultural preservation highlighted through his paintings, lino prints and sculptures in the exhibition 'Lagangu'. Through song, dance and language, Alick is an important keeper and sharer of the long and distinguished heritage of the Badu Island people.

We thank Alick for leaving his beautiful Island home and for making the journey from Badu Island to Melbourne in the middle of winter and sharing his remarkable work with our audience.

Melinda Martin Director July 2016



ALICK TIPOTI, 'Puru Dhangal', 2016 linocut print on paper. Image reproduced courtesy of the artist. Photograph: Jon Linkins.

> THANK YOU

Linden New Art is grateful to the many people who have supported 'Lagangu'. They too share our passion for supporting the work of Australian artists on their journey to vibrant artistic careers.

Thank you to:

- Vincent Cooper from Tolarno Hotel our boutique art inspired accommodation partner
- Creative Cowboy Andrea and Peter Hylands
- The City of Port Phillip for their annual support of our contemporary Indigenous programming
- Our sponsors and donors who support us to achieve our goals
- The Board and team at Linden who each contribute with a rich array of skills and passion.



ALICK TIPOTI, 'Kazilayg', 2016, linocut print on paper. Image reproduced courtesy of the artist. Photograph: Jon Linkins.

Alick Tipoti is recognised as one of the Torres Strait Islands' most dynamic contemporary artists.

Growing up on Badu Island, he learnt the traditional stories and language from his parents. He is a passionate ambassador for his culture through his visual art and dance and uses these art forms to inform, promote and strengthen Torres Strait Islander culture for future generations.

ALICK TIPOTI > LAGANGU

The driving force behind Alick's passion for creating his art is cultural preservation. Diminished because of the influence of Christian teachings Alick sees the possibility to save traditional language and revive ancient stories through visual art, songs and

dance. Badu Island, the biggest community of the outer Torres Strait has been a leading community in cultural heritage for many decades.

Alick began his formal art training in 1992 studying at TAFE in Townsville and Cairns where he was introduced to lino and block printing. For Alick this technique strongly resonated with him as carving techniques were taught to him throughout his childhood by his uncles on Badu Island, as they made costumes and accessories for traditional dances and ceremonies. The tradition of carving patterns onto artefacts such as drums and turtle shell created into masks, provided Alick with endless inspiration for Alick to develop his unique artistic style.

In 1998 Alick completed a Bachelor of Visual Art at Australian National University in Canberra. Here he continued to explore new mediums and through the inspiration of stunning examples of rock art seen in caves and on granite boulders on Badu Island, Alick explored painting. He sees this medium as providing the most direct means and the ability to bring to light these sacred images and stories from long long ago to a new generation.

Most of the stories presented in Alick's work tell about life on the sea and the creatures that inhabit it. The imagery tells of the important relationship to man and the way in which the sea sustains the islander peoples both physically and spiritually. Alick explores the connection with spiritual ancestors through the representation of totems through his distinctively intricate and highly patterned linocuts. Often presented on a grand scale these stunning images fully envelope the viewer into a complex and dynamic narrative.

The dynamic nature of story telling and the ability to bring ancient culture to life could not be better presented for Alick and his people, than through dance. "Zugabul dancers are all about ancient culture... period". These ancient dances exploring themes of spirits, ancient traditions and the sea are performed mainly as chants both old and new and adhere strongly to protocol. Through the Zugabul dances, not only does Alick keep culture alive, he demonstratively highlights his skill as a superior maker of traditional costume, headdresses and masks, through the use of modern and traditional materials and techniques.

Alick's art practice has led him and the Zugabul dancers to travel extensively including the UK, Europe, the United States of America as well as across the Pacific region. This has been an invaluable opportunity for Alick's development as an artist and for Torres Strait Islander culture to be made visible to the world through exhibitions, performances, talks and festivals; something he is particularly proud of achieving. Travel has also allowed special relationships to form with overseas archeological and anthropological institutions in particular Cambridge University and the British Museum in London.

However no matter where Alick travels his most enduring passion is his home on Badu Island and the continuing of ancient culture now and into the future on home soil.

Edwina Bolger Curator July 2016



ALICK TIPOTI, 'Apu Kaazi', 2016, linocut print on paper. Image reproduced courtesy of the artist. Photograph: Jon Linkins.



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DIRECTOR: MELINDA MARTIN CURATOR: EDWINA BOLGER

PUBLIC PROGRAMS MANAGER:

EMMA MATTHEWS

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

COORDINATOR: JOSEPHINE HARKIN

GALLERY ADMINISTRATORS:

TOM PENDER & SIYING ZHOU

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26 ACLAND STREET ST KILDA 3182 **MELBOURNE**

www.lindenarts.org gallery@lindenarts.org PHONE **03 9534 0099** **GALLERY HOURS FREE ENTRY** Tuesday - Sunday 11am - 4pm Wednesday 11am - 8pm



























