



Fiona Lowry

Nancy Fairfax Artist in Residence Studio
The Friends Gallery

Friday 16 March – Sunday 29 July 2018

In 2017 Sydney-based artist Fiona Lowry worked in the Gallery's Nancy Fairfax Artist in Residence Studio to develop a body of work for a solo exhibition in the Friends Gallery in 2018.

Of her time in the region Lowry said, "Initially what was interesting about doing a residency in Murwillumbah was the opportunity to revisit a landscape that I spent some time growing up in.

My work often explores my own memories of place but also the history of place and this was a unique opportunity to immerse myself in my own history and to understand the history of this landscape.

I spent some time visiting the places that had held potent memories for me and started to think about the ties that bind you to a place; and how the history of a place is intrinsic to our own experience, even though it may be unspoken or unacknowledged.

I ended up spending time at the Minjungbal Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Tweed Heads where you can stand amongst the mangroves near Minjungbal Aboriginal nature walk. From there you can look out to Ukerebagh Island, an Aboriginal heritage site where Australia's first Aboriginal politician, Neville Bonner was born in 1922 whilst it was used as a reserve for Aboriginal people. Further around from the mangroves is a Bora ring, a sacred ceremonial site used traditionally until 1910. This potent bit of the Australian landscape is surrounded by encroaching highways and supermarkets but its historical revelations are transformative."

Fiona Lowry, September 2017

Artwork in progress in Fiona Lowry's Sydney studio

Fiona Lowry is represented by Jan Murphy Gallery (Brisbane) and Martin Browne Contemporary (Sydney).