

WARWAR

The Art of Torres Strait

29 May - 22 August 2021

Activity Booklet

Brian Robinson



Brian Robinson's work of art titled *As the rains fell and the seas rose* 2012 is a linocut printed on paper. The intricate lines blur the boundaries of traditional and contemporary culture. This work is a contemporary version of the long march to Noah's ark. This biblical story is told using several Torres Strait Islander warriors guarding the procession of pop-culture characters including Mickey Mouse, Batman, a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle, Alien, Goop from Ben 10, Predator, Wall-E and a flying Astro Boy.

About the artist:

Born in Waiben (Thursday Island), Queensland. Brian Robinson is a multi-skilled artist who creates works of art across diverse media including printmaking, sculpture and major public art installations. He curated the exhibition *WARWAR: The Art of Torres Strait*.



Top: **Brian ROBINSON** *As the rains fell and the seas rose* 2012 linocut 62.0 x 112.5cm
Gift of the Newcastle Art Gallery Society 2019 Newcastle Art Gallery collection Courtesy the artist
Below: Detail of *As the rains fell and the seas rose* 2012 showing the super-hero characters

Activity:

Make a drawing of your favourite superhero character from a movie or comic. You might like to include your superhero's symbol or logo in your picture for your friends and family to find.



Toby Cedar



Toby Cedar's striking work of art made from bamboo cane, twine, raffia, pearl shell, acrylic paint and feathers, is titled *Op Nor Beizam (Shark Mask) Pearl* – the shark dance headdress. These contemporary totemic headdresses are worn by male dancers who make them come alive with music and dance to tell stories about the land, lives and traditions, which are based on fishing and the sea of the Torres Strait.

About the artist:

Born in Dampier, Western Australia. Toby Cedar is a Torres Strait Islander with bloodline connections to Erub, Mer and Moa Islands. Cedar is influenced by his Torres Strait Islander culture, particularly his father's stories about his youth on the islands, hunting, fishing, gardening, dance and family life. He currently lives and works in the Hunter region. Cedar and his two sons enjoy performing traditional and contemporary dances.



At home activity:

Create your own headdress. You might like to include objects that tell a story about your life and where you live. Find objects from the sea and nature. For example sand, shells, bark and feathers.

Above: **Toby CEDAR** *Op Nor Beizam (Shark Mask) Pearl* 2018 bamboo cane, twine, raffia, pearl shell, acrylic paint, feather 95.0 x 75.0 x 35.0cm Les Renfrew Bequest 2019 Newcastle Art Gallery collection Courtesy the artist
Below: Detail of *Op Nor Beizam (Shark Mask) Pearl* 2018

Matilda Nona



Matilda Nona's work of art titled *Sawur 2016* is a linocut printed on paper. She has used lines and patterns in her print to depict the leaves of the wild yam plant, sawur, climbing a tree.

It grows on Badu in the Torres Strait. The yam is a staple food source for Badu Islanders, who harvest it from their home gardens or gather from wild outcrops. The hairy leaves of the vine indicate that it is growing during the dry season, Sageraw Thonar, when the south easterly trade winds blow through the Torres Strait.



About the artist:

Born in Waiben (Thursday Island), Queensland. Badhulgal and Maluyligal people, Torres Strait Islands. Matilda Nona creates large-scale linocuts to explore Torres Strait Islander culture, history and tradition from new and innovative perspectives.

Above: **Matilda Nona MALUJEWEL** *Sawur 2016* (detail) linocut on paper 200.2 x 121.2cm
Gift of the Newcastle Art Gallery Society 2019 Newcastle Art Gallery collection Courtesy the artist
Below: Detail of *Sawur 2016*

Activity:

Make a drawing of your favourite food, plant or flower that reminds you of home. You might like to include a variety of lines, pattern and shading in your picture.

