



'Sunday Night' oil on canvas 2006



'Woman' (detail) oil on canvas 2006



'Obon' oil on canvas 2006



'Empty' oil on canvas 2006

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# OBON

The Soul of Broome

Helen Norton



'Cross' oil on canvas 2006

During the Obon festival which might be literally interpreted as "Hanging upside down in Hell", the relatives and attendants put the offerings which were made at the divers gravesides in little paper boats and send them up the river or out to sea on the tide. The Buddhist/Shinto belief is that this helps the spirits on their journey across to 'the other side'. This beautiful ritual must be seen as a wonderful example of human compassion in action. Upon reflection it can be seen how we use such rituals to contain our suffering condition. It matters not if we believe in 'the other side'. You might or you might not. What is vital is the intent towards the living.

There is much notice taken of the magnificent landscape, the turquoise seas, the cobalt skies, the deep alizarin and ochre pindan. When the first rains come after a long dry season and the very first drops hit the powdered or rock hard pindan; words cannot describe the incredibly elegant aroma that rises from the warm earth - but what of 'the other' that escapes the immediate senses? What of the ethereal aspect of Broome town as a cultural being in itself. What is the nature of Broome's soul?



'Mr Man' oil on canvas 2006



'Geisha Serpent' oil on canvas 120 x 120cm 2006



'Souls Path' oil on canvas 50 x 50cm 2006

## Cockatoo Gallery

invites you to an exhibition of new artworks  
by Helen Norton

Opening Thursday 31st August 2006  
Please join us for drinks from 6pm to 8pm

Exhibition open until September 30th 2006

To be opened by Richard "Salty Dog" Baillieu  
Broome resident of 30 years with 16 years in  
the pearling industry

With the very special company of the philosophical elder  
Steven "Bamba" Albert to entertain us with his songs'.

RSVP 25th August

Shop 11-12 Johnny Chi Lane, Chinatown Broome  
Phone: (08) 9192 1224 or (08) 9335 5152  
Email: broome@cockatoo-gallery.com.au  
view online at

[www.cockatoo-gallery.com.au](http://www.cockatoo-gallery.com.au)



'No Tugs' oil on canvas 50 x 50cm 2006