

CRAFTS COUNCIL OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY  
TRADING AS

# TACTILE ARTS

ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR 2018



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Media 2018

Tactile Arts Studios & Gallery, 19 Conacher St, Fannie Bay, Darwin ABN: 76 196 329 327

Tactile Arts Retail Shop Parliament House, Cnr Mitchell & Bennett streets, Darwin

Cover image: Kate Fernyhough, *Woman in Frangipani Dress Buys a Frangipani*.

All other images provided by Tactile Arts unless otherwise indicated.

# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

A major focus of the Management Committee in 2018 was strategic planning. Armed with the results of an organisational audit completed in early 2018, a comprehensive strategic planning process commenced in August and included interviews with major stakeholders, a written survey of both members and former members, and a workshop held to review the survey results and preliminary recommendations. The strategic plan will guide Tactile Arts from 2019 to 2023. Through this process, we have affirmed our vision to "promote and support a vibrant and sustainable arts and crafts community in the Top End; to facilitate the development of emerging and established artists, craftspeople and designers; and to encourage the highest standards of workmanship." The Strategic Plan identifies the following key objectives:

- Tactile Arts is a strong and sustainable organisation, with good governance practices.
- Build Tactile Arts' wider community involvement and reputation.
- Strengthen support for current members and encourage new membership.
- Continue to develop a diverse program for artists and artisans.
- Upgrade facilities and make Tactile Arts a vibrant space.
- Diversify income streams to enhance long term sustainability and increase income.

We have already made progress towards achieving these objectives. Governance reforms in 2018 included a comprehensive review of the Constitution and a number of significant amendments adopted in response to current legislative requirements, the evolved structure of the organisation and the expressed needs and preferences of members in relation to voting, special general meetings, and other important matters. The revised Constitution is available on the Tactile Arts website.

I took on the role of chairperson in March 2018. I was pleased to welcome new members to the Management Committee in May 2018: Nardi Ling, Jocelyn Tribe and Tessa Duke. Together we recruited, hired and inducted staff; worked to strengthen the organisation's reputation and reach; and developed options for diversifying income streams.

Understanding the significant impact Tactile Arts has had over many years of operation with limited resources, the Management Committee believes that, with structured planning and investment in the organisation's development, we will be well positioned for a stronger financial future. We recognise that this will require us to professionalise the way we operate Tactile Arts so that we can solidify the strong foundation we have already built and leverage our existing relationships and achievements to enhance our reach across the Top End. Many of our efforts as a Management Committee will come to fruition in 2019 and we are looking forward to sharing the results with you.

The Management Committee acknowledges with appreciation the hard work and dedication of the staff members who stepped into their roles under challenging circumstances in 2018. It is a credit to them that we ended 2018 with a surplus, following a deficit the previous year.



We acknowledge and thank Doreen Dyer and our generous volunteers who returned the Parliament House shop to smooth operation after a shutdown at the start of the year. The shop continues to thrive and I encourage everyone to stop by and show your support for this important Tactile Arts resource.

Despite the downturn in the regional Darwin economy, craft continues to survive, and even to flourish. Our craft fair attendance has continued to grow, with a commensurate increase in sales, despite the decline in the commercial retail sector. Our role in the arts sector is to provide on-going opportunities to unite our widespread community of creatives with an engaged public in support of the local creative economy and we are becoming stronger and more passionate advocates for this important sector.

Through my ongoing discussions with members and friends of Tactile Arts, I am always struck by the power of craft to enhance people's lives. It encourages us to appreciate beauty and authenticity. It causes us to recognise skill, to encourage the beginner, to be sensitive and to ask questions. It gives us a reason to imagine, to roll up our sleeves and to create. It starts conversations, brings people together, forms communities. We celebrate the achievements of our members in 2018, and on behalf of the Management Committee, I wish you all the best for a bright and prosperous 2019.

Kind regards



Gail Carnes  
Chairperson and Public Officer  
Crafts Council of the Northern Territory





# TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 December 2018

The auditor's report has been received and is available to members.

## Income

The organisation's income for 2018 was \$226,256. This is a pleasing result considering Tactile Arts had only one paid staff member from April 2018 to August 2018. The organisation did realise some savings on staff wages for this reason also.

Tactile Arts key income stream is our core funding from Arts NT of \$71,333. Further income is received from other grants and fundraising.

Key areas of income that contributed to overall income include:

Income Stream	2018
Workshop fees	\$26,696
Craft fair fees	\$21,994
Studio hire	\$16,027
Membership fees	\$12,625
Parliament House shop commission	\$6,069
Exhibition fees	\$5,204
Exhibition commission	\$457,50

There was a reduction in workshop income from the previous year from workshops, the result of having fewer staff to coordinate and promote them. We also had less income from commissions on gallery sales due to a restructuring of gallery fees in 2018.

## **Expenditure**

Staff wages were Tactile Arts' main expenditure in 2018, at \$78,562. Key areas of overall expenditure include:

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2018</b>
Admin and infrastructure (operating expenses)	\$40,337
Workshop costs	\$23,870
Consultants (includes Matrix)	\$20,320
Marketing and promotion	\$3,638
Repairs and maintenance	\$2,496

Staff wages were significantly reduced, by about \$100,000, from 2017. This was due to two permanent staff members being made redundant in December 2017 and one casual staff no longer being offered hours. The ramification of this was that Tactile Arts was able to offer less in the way of exhibitions and workshops, and also lost members during this time.

Overall Net Surplus: +\$20,328

Nardi Ling  
Treasurer  
11 May 2019

# EXHIBITIONS REPORT

Throughout 2018 Tactile Arts hosted a vibrant program of exhibitions that showcased emerging and established artists from across the Top End and the Western Desert Region. Under a new gallery hire arrangement, exhibitors were required to run their own exhibitions, including gallery sitting, management of sales and coordination of the opening event.

In addition to the diverse external gallery hire program, Tactile Arts presented two thematic group exhibitions of current work by Tactile Arts members: *Harmony*, which opened the program, and *Botanic*, the final exhibition for 2018. Additional highlights of 2018 included Salon des Refuses' *Mick Richter* exhibition, presented in association with Spinifex Arts Project. As one of the last Aboriginal people to withdraw from a traditional nomadic life, Richter is now a senior man painting for Spinifex Arts Project, sharing his knowledge of traditional lore and custom through his expressive paintings. The opening event was scheduled as a prelude to the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (NATSIAA) held at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) on the same evening. The effective scheduling drew an impressive crowd of local and interstate visitors to Tactile Arts Gallery prior to the NATSIAA, resulting in a sellout opening event.

*Reach for the Skies*, an exhibition of works commemorating National Threatened Species Day, was presented by Tactile Arts in partnership with the Territory Wildlife Park. The exhibition was the culmination of works from artists who had participated in the Artists-in-the-Park program, or who had been commissioned to create artistic installations with the Territory Wildlife Park as part of the Park's Community Art Program.

Seven additional exhibitions presented audiences with a diverse range of artistic practices from both emerging and established artists, including *Joyful*, with a vibrant display of paintings, illustrations and ceramics by professional artist Isabel Lopes. Dawn Beasley's *7 Skins (before envious time will have fled)* an exhibition of paintings, mixed media and ceramics explored the possibilities and limitations of seven chosen 'skins': canvas, wood, pigment, ceramics, paper, textiles and metal leaf. Dawn's solo exhibition was very well received, with coverage in **The Sun** newspaper, high visitation and artwork sales reflecting this.





As part of The ART Lab Trail, Tactile Arts partnered with Charles Darwin University to host *Ask Me Why?* an exhibition of the work of visual arts students at many different phases of their study, from first year to honours. The exhibition was curated by CDU students under the guidance of Sarah Pirrie, Coordinator of Bachelor of Creative Arts and Lecturer in Visual Arts at CDU.

In 2018, we again invited expressions of interest from artists to be part of our 2019 exhibition program. We currently have 11 exhibitions scheduled for 2019.

EXHIBITIONS: 9

VISITORS: 2,466

EXHIBITORS: 83

NET PROFIT: \$4,392.38

Tessa Duke  
General Manager  
1 May 2019



# WORKSHOPS REPORT

The Tactile Arts workshop program is an integral part of our core business which has a focus on community engagement and access, along with a commitment to making the arts accessible and inclusive. Our program supports local artists through tutoring and masterclasses which provide income and skill development opportunities.

Public programming in 2018 included a highly successful ceramic masterclass with American artist Candone Wharton, who over one full weekend shared with participants advanced hand building and raku glazing techniques, learned over her 40-year career travelling and living in the USA, Spain and Indonesia.

Other highlights in the 2018 workshop program were the continuation of the uber popular *Throwing on the Wheel* with Cecily Willis; *Wax Casting Silver Jewellery* and *Silver Jewellery Making* with Marianne Eichenberg; *Introduction to Weaving* with Abbey Murray; *Beginners Stained Glass* and *A Short-Fused Workshop* with Jon Firth; Gisela Pinero's all-inclusive *Paint Parties*; and Gerald Clapham's *Cyclone School*, which provides a valuable creative outlet to budding local artists throughout the Wet Season months.

Social media continued to be effective in boosting awareness of Tactile Arts public programs; however, due to Tactile Arts operating with minimum staff for much of the year, workshop facilitation fell short of previous years.

WORKSHOPS: 16

NEW WORKSHOPS: 2

PARTICIPANTS: 121

NET INCOME: \$2,826.29

Tessa Duke  
General Manager  
1 May 2019





# CRAFT FAIRS REPORT

The Tactile Arts craft fairs continue to grow as highly anticipated and much-loved Darwin events, with their reputation for showcasing high quality art and craft growing nationally. Interest from potential stallholders now extends across the Top End to regional and remote art centres, as well as to local Darwin artists at all stages of their careers. The three annual craft fairs provide artists a platform upon which to grow their public profile and to hone their business skills, offer professional development to the many artists who participate, and enrich the lives of the broad community who attend these annual events.

In 2018 Tactile Arts held the Mothers' Day Craft Fair at the Darwin Waterfront (May), the Dragonfly Craft Fair in Tactile Arts grounds (July), and the Christmas Craft Fair at the Darwin Convention Centre (November). Stallholder and visitor attendance numbers to the Mother's Day Craft Fair were down from previous years, due in part to disenfranchised members, minimal marketing and the scheduling of the event to fall on a long weekend. However, the partnership with the Darwin Waterfront continued to stay strong resulting in the longstanding sponsorship agreement being carried into 2019. By the mid-year Dragonfly Craft Fair stallholder numbers had grown but were still down from previous years. The Tactile Arts location allowed for food and beverage stalls to be included, but with lower than usual visitor numbers, feedback from these stalls was disappointing. Although there is much fondness for this mid-year event to be held at the Tactile Arts facilities, the sloping grounds are not suitable for people with limited mobility. For this reason that an alternative venue with flat lawns was suggested for 2019.

The Christmas Craft Fair held at the Darwin Convention Centre drew the highest number of stallholders and visitors of the three events, indicating not only that Tactile Arts artists were regaining confidence in the organisation, but highlighting the positivity of the move to the indoor, air conditioned venue in 2017. The venue provides a comfortable environment for artists and visitors to the event who now spend additional time at the event. With the layout of the Christmas Craft Fair utilising internal halls for the majority of stalls, Tactile Arts fundraising has increased dramatically by adding a gold coin donation entry, with approximately \$3,500 raised through fundraising at this event.

## MOTHERS DAY SALTWATER CRAFT FAIR

Stalls: 42 Attendance: 2,500

## DRAGONFLY CRAFT FAIR

Stalls: 67 Attendance: 2,500

## CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Stalls: 96 Attendance: 3,500

NET INCOME: \$11,964

Tessa Duke, General Manager  
1 May 2019





# RETAIL SHOP REPORT

## SALES

Visitors	#Items sold	Total value	Artists payments	Shop commissions
3,210	1,478	\$25,609	\$19,046	\$6,563

There has been an increase in both visitors and sales compared to 2017, with approximately 230 extra visitors, and \$11,000 total extra sales. This resulted in an extra \$1,000 in shop commissions, compared to 2017.

## MARKETING

Due to there being no formal person employed in the role of Retail Shop Coordinator, very little marketing was achieved in 2018. There was one Instagram post made with 45 likes. Copies of the shop flyer was also placed in the NT Tourist Centre.

## ARTISTS

There were approximately 32 artists selling a wide variety of stock in the shop. Most of those artists were selling work each month.

## VOLUNTEERS

There were approximately 15 volunteers in the shop over the period of 2018. A special thanks to all volunteers as if without your assistance, the shop would not have opened.

## GENERAL

The Tactile Arts Retail Shop was opened later than usual, on 21 April, after going into abeyance in early December 2017. The Retail Shop Coordinator position was abolished by the previous management committee. People volunteered to get the shop up and running again and, given late opening and the current management committee deciding to waive the shop commissions from 21 April to 31 May as a goodwill gesture, the sales for 2017 are still very pleasing. The current management committee decided to reinstate the Retail Shop Coordinator position in 2019 at four hours per week and welcomed Linda Pfau to the role. Given Linda's extensive experience in retail and visual merchandising skills, it is expected that the shop will only be going upward from here.

Nardi Ling

Management Committee Member/Volunteer

05 May 2019



# ORGANISATIONAL REPORT

## Membership and Subscribers

2018 Members: 171

E-news Subscribers: 1,187

Facebook Followers: 2,686

Tactile Arts Instagram Followers: 991

Shop Instagram Followers: 185

## Staff

Melanie Favola, Acting General Manager (from 1 April to 3 October)

Tali Dunnage-Burke, Sponsorship and Fundraising Officer (from 15 October)

Tracey Bunn, General Manager (from 3 October)

Ned Roberts, Programs Officer (from 3 October)

## Management Committee Members

Gail Carnes (appointed January 2018)

Louise Bilato (resigned August 2017)

Louise Gillett (resigned April 2017)

Fay Gurr (resigned April 2018)

Bernard Ho (resigned December 2018)

Liz Martin (resigned February 2018)

Sarah Pirrie (resigned September 2017)

Debra Senjuschenko (resigned May 2018)

Melanie Tribe (resigned December 2017)

Melanie Favola (appointed January 2018, resigned May 2018)

Felicity Wright (appointed January 2018, resigned May 2018)

Tessa Duke (elected June 2018)

Jocelyn Tribe (elected June 2018)

Nardi Ling (appointed June 2018)

Angela Bevan (elected June 2018, resigned July 2018)





## TACTILE ARTS PRESENTS



Clockwise from left: Marita Albers, Vicky Napier, Isabel Lopez

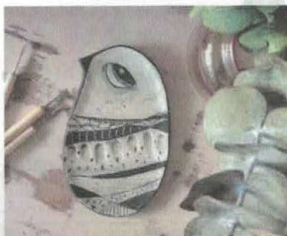
### TACTILE ARTS

19 Conacher Street, Fannie Bay | 8981 6616 | tactilearts.org.au  
TUE-FRI 10AM-4PM | SAT & SUN 10AM-4PM

## HARMONY

Harmony is an exhibition of works created by Tactile Arts members. View the work of local artists and artisans as they respond to the theme Harmony. Works on paper, ceramics, glass, jewellery and textiles will feature.

WHEN: FRI 16 MAR - SUN 1 APR | OPENING FRI 16 MAR, 5-7PM



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There is a series of works included in the exhibition inspired by paperbark leaves, submerged and floating, which were derived by Ms Beasley's trips to Goose Lagoon at the Territory Wildlife Park.

Ms Beasley has lived in Darwin for over 11 years.

Her art and design teaching career has seen her working and exhibiting in the UK, Botswana and Malaysia before emigrating to and settling in Darwin in 2006.

Dawn was diagnosed with terminal cancer in 2013 and left teaching in 2015 when the disease progressed.

She was lucky to get access to breakthrough new cancer treatments and is now outliving her initial prognosis.

"Cancer makes your world smaller, your focus becomes

quality time with the people that really matter in your life. You devote yourself to what you love," said Ms Beasley.

"Living from scan to scan with ongoing treatment makes a bit of a dark cloud in your life. It's hard to forget about it, but being creative puts me in my happy place.

"I'm drawn to beauty and life in nature and that's what makes its way into my work. If there's a silver lining to my cancer cloud then it's the opportunity to push myself to become my best creative self."

Ms Beasley exhibition opens at the Tactile Arts Gallery Space on 19 Conacher Street in Fannie Bay Friday May 18 from 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

The exhibition runs until June 1. Gallery hours 10am till 4pm from Tuesday to Sunday.



7 Skins (before envious time will have fled) is an exhibition of paintings, mixed media work and ceramics by Darwin Artist Dawn Beasley

# Christmas Craft Fair

IT'S NOT TIME TO FREAK OUT JUST YET, but Christmas is just around the corner.

If you're an artist with a bursting studio of goods, or a punter on the hunt for some extra brownie points this Christmas, the Tactile Arts Christmas Craft Fair has got you covered.

Ned Roberts, part of the new team at Tactile Arts, says the huge annual event is a great opportunity for local artisans to share their work and make a bit of cash ahead of the silly season.

"It's a great place for artists to band together and access a captive audience who want to support locals, because Tactile Arts does all the organising and promotion, which is beyond the scope of what a lot of artists can achieve by themselves."

Thousands of people flock to the annual craft fair to buy locally made, sustainable gifts for loved ones.

"Darwin is a community minded city and I think people like to support the local arts and crafts people

### MICK RICTOR

Mick Rictor was a young boy when he and his family 'walked in' from the Great Victoria Desert in 1986, making him one of the last Aboriginal people to withdraw from a traditional nomadic life. Now a senior man painting for Spinifex Arts Project, he carries his knowledge of traditional lore and custom with him everywhere, demonstrating it artistically through his expressive paintings.



Untitled, acrylic on canvas, 2018

### VISUAL ARTS Australia

📍 Tactile Arts  
Exhibition Dates: Fri 10 - Mon 20 Aug  
Mon-Sat 10am-4pm  
Official Opening: Fri 10 Aug 3.30pm

Presented by Saloni Indigenous Art Projects in association with Spinifex Arts Project

## REACH FOR THE SKIES PROTECTING OUR NATIVE WILDLIFE



Each year the Territory Wildlife Park aims to raise awareness of the wildlife and habitats of Northern Australia. Featuring artists from the Territory Wildlife Park's Artists-in-the-Park program, this exhibition raises the spotlight on National Threatened Species Day, engaging viewers to discover the intrinsic beauty of our native wildlife and the importance of protecting it.



Isabel Lopes, 'Plumage', 2018, mixed media

**Joyful**  
Heavily inspired by nature, Isabel Lopes creates playful works featuring flora and fauna. This body of work explores the connection of mixed media paintings, illustrations, illustrated ceramics and wearable art.

WHEN: FRI 21 SEP - SUN 7 OCT | OPENING FRI 21 SEP



MOTHER'S DAY  
SALTWATER CRAFT FAIR  
SATURDAY 5 MAY  
9AM - 3PM  
DARWIN WATERFRONT



at Tactile Arts, Museum Grounds

CONTACT: Tactile Arts 08 8981 6616 admin@tactilearts.org.au www.tactilearts.org.au



DARWIN CONVENTION CENTRE  
9 AM - 4 PM DEC 2

tactileARTS

WWW.TACTILEARTS.ORG.AU

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT