

**Title:** My Country Two (exhibition and catalogue)

**Creator:** Lisa Chandler

**Exhibitions:** Noosa Blue Resort, 5-13 July 2008

The Studio, Cooroy, 5-13 July 2008

**Year:** 2008

## **Research Background**

This research builds on the 2006 My Country exhibition by examining the diversity of contemporary Indigenous art through a display of museum-quality works by acclaimed artists and significant emerging practitioners. The two interlinked exhibitions considered how the artists incorporate cultural knowledge and inventive expression to represent culture, country and a lived relationship with the land. They were presented within the nationally-recognised Noosa Longweekend arts festival.

## **Research Contribution**

The exhibition and catalogue facilitate increased understandings of stylistic expression, innovation, and cultural and regional specificities in Indigenous art, through the presentation of a series of major works which have not previously been on public display. Understandings of artistic and cultural continuity and change are revealed through juxtapositions between works. The research contributes to knowledge of the oeuvre of prominent artists such as Tommy Watson, Emily Kngwarreye, John Marwundjul, Rover Thomas and Sally Gabori and the development of emerging practitioners.

## **Research Significance**

By bringing together major works not normally in the public domain this exhibition enabled increased understandings of Indigenous art, including emerging practices. Queensland Premier Anna Bligh wrote a Foreword to the exhibition catalogue. Premier Bligh and Queensland Governor Penny Wensley presented opening speeches. Sydney Morning Herald national art critic John McDonald reviewed the exhibition which was a central visual art component of the Noosa Longweekend arts festival, which attracts major international and national cultural practitioners.