

**Noosa Regional Gallery
Media Release
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Noosa Regional Gallery in partnership with Noosa Alive, brings important First Nations exhibitions to the forefront this 2022 Festival.

A recent series of photographic works by internationally renowned First Nations artist Fiona Foley opens at Noosa Regional Gallery on July 16.

NGUTHURU-NUR examines a 700year old mangrove tree living on Badtjala Country. Named after Magna Carta by a cattle farmer upon whose land the ancient tree sits, the tree bears the same age as the infamous charter that has led much of Western law since its inception in 1215.

Creating a rich, swirling narrative around the history of the 'pirri' (mangrove tree in Badtjala language), in her highly acclaimed wry style, Foley references invasion, the contradictions inherent in law, and the ownership of land, all while celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the Badtjala people and the land with which they are and have been connected to for millennia.

Also on show at the Gallery until 4 September is acclaimed First Nations artist Michael Cook.

NATURES MORTES is a recent series of photographic works by Cook that explore the devastating impact of colonisation on Australia's First Nations peoples; his narrative broadening to encompass the global repercussions of environmental degradation.

Cook's beautifully lit portraits of 'dead nature' illustrate an aesthetic that echoes Dutch Old Master paintings. Through his beautifully lit, choreographed arrangements of plants, animals, objects and food, Cook examines the industry and practices that have brought damage to traditional Aboriginal culture, the natural environment of the Australian continent, and the globe.

Extending these ground-breaking solo exhibitions outside the Gallery walls, is FIRST LIGHTS.

Showcasing photographic and video work of some of Australia's most exciting First Nations artists, FIRST LIGHT features evening projections peppered amongst the natural and built environments of Noosa's popular Hastings Street. These captivating and challenging works infiltrating a range of public spaces for four days only.

FIRST LIGHTS artists are: Michael Cook, Fiona Foley, Kent Morris, Lyndon Davis with Leah Barclay and Tricia King, and Peta Clancy and Helen Pynor.

FIRST LIGHTS runs from 28 to 31 July 2022 in Hastings Street.

NGUTHURU-NUR and NATURES MORTES open at the Gallery on 16 July until 4 September 2022.

For more information about the exhibitions including Noosa Alive 2022 Festival, please visit <https://www.noosaregionalgallery.com.au/>

IMAGE: Fiona Foley, The Magna Carta Tree #1, 2021, inkjet print (detail). Photo: Mick Richards.

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