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Melanie Hava

Aboriginal name: "Winden" - green pigeon

I am blessed to have been born into interesting and diverse cultures: my father comes from the oldest city in Austria, Enns (Upper Austria) and my mother is from the oldest cultures in the world, Aboriginal people of Australia. While celebrating my Austrian heritage, I also identify through my Mum's line as a Mamu Aboriginal woman, Dugul-barra and Wari-barra family groups, from the Johnstone River catchment of the Wet Tropics of Far North Queensland and the adjoining Great Barrier Reef sea country. Reef and rainforest country are important sources for my inspirations.

When I was in my late teens/early twenties, I started playing around with the ideas of combining my Aboriginal and Austrian inspirations. I had already tried my style in Aboriginal, Folk and Abstract arts and I had had a successful first exhibition at Outback at Isa Gallery (and right now coming up to a 10 year anniversary exhibition with them). So at 23 I travelled to Austria to live with my father's family and absorb as much as I could of the Folk and European culture. More than anything I loved the architecture, inside and out. The patterns, gold leaf and occasional Swarovski crystal in my works are some things that since then inspire my work! I'm feeling close with the spirit of rainforest and reef animals and this is coming out in my work. .

Solo Exhibitions

2016 – CIAF fair in Cairns

2015 - Mirages to Rainbows at Outback at Isa's Outback Gallery in August

2014 – Fusion at Tosari Galleries

2013 – UnderArt Gallery, Cairns

2011 - Feature artist at Tosari Galleries

2010 - “From Dust To Thunder,” Tosari Galleries, Toowoomba

2009 - “Indigenously Austr(al)ian,” Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery

2005 - “Migaloo Murri,” Outback at Isa, Mount Isa