

BRENDA L CROFT
Adjunct Research Fellow/PhD Candidate
National Institute for Experimental Arts, UNSW Art & Design Australia
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Overview: Critical Indigenous performative auto-ethnography; representation and identity; creative narratives; Indigenous Knowledges; contemporary Australian Indigenous visual art/culture

Brenda L Croft is from the Gurindji/Malngin/Mudpurra peoples from the Victoria River region of the Northern Territory of Australia, and Anglo-Australian/German/Irish/Chinese heritage. She has been involved in the Indigenous and broader contemporary arts and cultural sectors for three decades as an artist, arts administrator, curator, academic and consultant.

Artistic practice/awards/commissions

Croft's artistic practice encompasses critical performative Indigenous auto-ethnography, representation and cultural identity, creative narratives, installation, multi-media and multi-platform work, often drawn from personal and public archives and memory. Croft's work is represented in major state, territory and federal public collections in Australia, international public collections and many private collections. She has been the recipient of numerous awards and commissions, including: *Artistic Associate Fellowship (Photography)*, LendLease for Barangaroo Authority (2016/7); *Sea of Hands*, ANTaR at Barangaroo Headland, Sydney, *Reconciliation Week* (2016); *National Indigenous Art Award Fellowship*, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board, Australia Council for the Arts (2015); *Berndt Foundation Postgraduate Award* (2015); *Visual Artist of the Year*, Deadlys National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Music, Sport, Entertainment and Community Awards (2013); *Indigenous Fellowship*, National Film and Sound Archives (2011-12); *Wuganmagulya (Farm Cove)*, Royal Botanic Gardens, *Sydney Sculpture Walk* and *City of Sydney* (2000).

Curator

Croft has extensive experience across regional, state, federal and international levels, including the following: Senior Curator, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art, National Gallery of Australia (2002-9), where she established the *National Indigenous Art Triennial: Culture Warriors* (2007), which toured to the USA in 2009; Curator, Indigenous Art, Art Gallery of Western Australia (1999-2001), where she established an extensive curatorial program with associated publications and public programs, including guest curating *South-West Central: Indigenous art from south Western Australia 1833 – 2002* for the Perth International Arts Festival (2003); co-curator (with Hetti Perkins) *Australian Indigenous Art Commission*, Musée du quai Branly, Paris, France (2006); co-curator (with Hetti Perkins) *fluent: Emily Kame Ngwarreye, Yvonne Koolmatrice & Judy Watson*, Australian Pavilion, 47th Venice Biennale (1997); Guest curator, *Stop(the)gap: international Indigenous art in motion*, Samstag Art Museum for the Adelaide International Film Festival, (with curatorial advisors Kathleen Ash-Milby, USA, David Garneau (Canada) and Megan Tamati-Quennell (Aotearoa/NZ) (2011); and *Beyond the pale: contemporary Indigenous art* for the Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art, Adelaide Festival of the Arts (2000).

Academic, selected

Croft is an Adjunct Research Fellow with the National Institute for Experimental Arts, UNSW Art & Design, where she is undertaking her PhD. As the recipient of an Australian Research Council Discovery Indigenous Award she was Senior Research Fellow with NIEA from 2012 – 15, working closely with her patrilineal community at Wave Hill in the Victoria River region of the NT. In 2011 Croft was Project Manager of the 45th anniversary of the *Gurindji Walk-Off from Wave Hill* commemoration at Kalkaringi and Daguragu, NT. From 2009–12 Croft was Senior Lecturer, Indigenous Art, Culture and Design at the University of South Australia. In 1998 she was Lecturer, Indigenous Visual Culture, Canberra School of Art, Australian National University. Croft has presented guest lectures at tertiary institutions throughout Australia and internationally since the late 1980s.

Academic Awards/Grants, selected

2015	Berndt Foundation Postgraduate Award
2012-5	Senior Research Fellow/Australian Research Council Discovery Indigenous Award, National Institute for Experimental Arts, UNSW Art & Design (formerly COFA)
2009	Honorary Doctorate (Visual Arts) Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney
2001	Alumni Award, UNSW
1995	Master of Art Administration College of Fine Arts, UNSW