

Dylan Mooney.

b. 1995, Yuwibara / Mackay

Biri (Yuwi), Northeast region; Meriam Mir, Zenadth Kes/Torres Strait region; Bislama
Lives and works in Meanjin / Brisbane

'It's about telling our story of resilience, thriving, survival, how far we've come as a people, what we've achieved ... and where we'll be in the future.'

Dylan Mooney is a proud Yuwi, Torres Strait and South Sea Islander man from Mackay in North Queensland working across painting, printmaking, digital illustration and drawing.

Influenced by history, culture and family, Mooney responds to community stories, current affairs and social media. Armed with a rich cultural upbringing, Mooney now translates the knowledge and stories passed down to him, through art. Legally blind, the digital medium's backlit display allows the artist to produce a high-impact illustrative style with bright, saturated colour that reflects his experiences with keen political energy and insight.



This blending of digital technology and social commentary is a uniting of the artist's sense of optimism – pride within the works exude with profoundness and substance.

Dylan is among artists who are rethinking digital technologies and artistic practices to consider contemporary issues around identity, desire and representation. Interested in the ways in which we can reframe the conversation around some of the voices that have been left out, the artist has made an important body of work that embodies a shift in representation of queer love among people of colour.

Dylan Mooney won the Brisbane Portrait Prize in 2023, and became a member of the board of Museums of History NSW in 2022.

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EDUCATION

2021 Bachelor of Contemporary Australian Indigenous Art, Griffith University

CAREER

2024 Assistant Curator, Artspace Mackay, Queensland

2022 Museums of History Board Member, Sydney

COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Victoria

Art Gallery of New South Wales

Queensland Museum

Museum of Brisbane

Mackay Artspace

Redland Art Gallery

Artbank

University of NSW

Australian Queer Archives

Brisbane City Council

Queensland Performing Arts Centre

Queensland Children's Hospital

Macquarie Bank Collection

Slattery Collection

Denholder Gibson Collection

Brisbane City Council Collection

COMMISSIONS AND PUBLIC ART

2025 Forthcoming mural commission, Sydney

Wild North Arts Comic cover

2024 Malcolm Cole – larger than life illustration, The 24th Biennale of Sydney, Ten Thousand Suns

Drawn Together Projection, Enlighten, National Portrait Gallery of Australia, Canberra

Let's Make Some Motherchunkin Change Campaign, Ben & Jerry's

Still Thriving Midsumma Festival Projection, Peel Street Park, Collingwood, Melbourne

2023 Still Thriving Mural, Sydney World Pride, Darlinghurst

2022 Brisbane Powerhouse

ABC Kids – Murringa Lullaby

Art Collector Magazine's 99th issue - Jan-March Cover

Microsoft Pride Campaign

Telecom Pride Campaign

Cross River Rail mural, Brisbane

Queensland University of Technology mural, Brisbane

Mackay Regional Council Library mural

Ben & Jerry's 'This is Our Whirled' ice cream packaging

2021 Rolling Stone – December Cover

Google – Doodle Celebrating Pearl Gibbs

Instagram – featured artist for Mardi Gras

The Wall mural commission, Mackay Art Space

2019 Gamma Festival mural, Brisbane City Council

Queensland Performing Arts Centre UnEarthed mural, QPAC

Where We Stand mural, Charleville

2017 Eagle Junction Station mural, Queensland Rail

2014 G20 'BRISBANE' sign, Southbank Parklands

AWARDS & GRANTS

2023 Brisbane Portrait Prize (winner)
2020 Mackay Artspace Foundation Bursary

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025 The Story of My People, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney

2024 And Then Life Was Beautiful, Australian Embassy Germany, Berlin
The Story of My People, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney
Drawn Together, Enlighten Festival, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
The 24th Biennale of Sydney, Ten Thousand Suns
And Then Life Was Beautiful, Australian Embassy in Berlin, Germany

2023 Blak Rainbow: L'Art de Dylan Mooney, Australian Embassy in Paris, Paris
Still Thriving, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney
WE ARE ALL HEROES, Science Gallery, Melbourne
Sydney Contemporary, N.Smith Gallery booth, Sydney

2022 A Story of My People, Cairns Regional Gallery
Boundless, Artspace Mackay
Intertwined, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney
Queer, Blak, & Here, Cement Fondu, Sydney
Queer, Blak, & Here, Brisbane Powerhouse, Brisbane

2021 Continuous / Unbroken Bonds (with Kyra Mancktelow), N.Smith Gallery, Sydney
As We Stand, Outer Space, Brisbane
Blak Superheroes, Museum of Brisbane
Goolmary, Artspace Mackay

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025 High Colour, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Performing Presence, Redland Art Gallery, QLD
Summer '25, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney

2024 24th Biennale of Sydney: Ten Thousand Suns, White Bay Power Station, Sydney
Fantastical Sharks & Rays, Australian Museum, Sydney
Wansolmoana, Australian Museum, Sydney
Say Our Names: Australian South Sea Islanders, Queensland Museum
Sunrise, Sunset, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney
Pride Month 2024, Clifford Chance, Sydney

2023 Wansolmoana, The Australian Museum, Sydney
G20 Art Project – Bihar Museum Biennale, Patna, India
Science Gallery Melbourne, University of Melbourne, Victoria
Rising Festival, Melbourne, Victoria
Portrait 23, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
Queer in Warrane, Hyde Park Barracks, Sydney

2022 Biennale of Sydney: rivus, Pier 2/3 Walsh Bay Arts Precinct, Sydney
Queer: Stories from the NGV Collection, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Perspectives of Brisbane, Museum of Brisbane

2021 Island Futures, Queensland Museum
Opening Exhibition: Welcome, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney
After, Tuggeranong Arts Centre, Canberra
Identity, Adornment, Transformation, Victorian Pride Centre, Melbourne
A Changing Ecology, Artspace Mackay
Continuum, Queensland college of Arts, Brisbane

2019 Spoken: Celebrating Queensland Languages, State Library of Queensland
Plantation Voices, Brisbane City Council

2018 Maiwar, Brisbane City Council
Brisbane Street Art Festival, Brisbane City Council
660 exhibition, Digi Youth Arts

2017 Jungle Love Festival, Digi Youth Arts
Brisbane Street Art Festival, Brisbane City Council

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ben & Jerry's, 'Let's Make Some Motherchunkin' Change Campaign', 11 September 2024

Australian Pride Network, 'Sydney to be transformed into a Rainbow City for WorldPride', 13 Feb 2023

ABC News, 'These Sydney WorldPride artists are some of Australia's most innovative and boundary-pushing creatives', Anna Freeland, 18 Feb 2023

Q News, 'How Indigenous artist Dylan Mooney is queering The Dreaming', Nate Woodall, 29 Dec 2022

National Gallery of Victoria, 'Dylan Mooney', in the exhibition publication QUEER, Myles Russell-Cook, 9 March 2022

The Australian, 'NGV exhibition views works through LGBTQ+ lens', Benjamin Judd, 4 March 2022
Art Collector Magazine, '50 Things – Debutantes', Claire G. Coleman, #99 Jan – Mar 2022 (and cover)

Daily Mercury, "Abducted and enslaved at eight years old": Why new show is bittersweet', 24 Jan 2022

Pedestrian, 'How This Queer First Nations Artist Is Exploring His Identity Through Storytelling', Jasmine Wallis, 6 Jan 2022

Artshub, '7 Curators Pick the Visual Artist to Watch in 2021', Gina Fairley, 22 Jan 2021

ABC News, 'Queensland Artist Dylan Mooney Fuses Ancient Storytelling, Queer Culture and Contemporary Illustration', Angel Parsons, 9 Feb 2021

TELEVISION

ABC Art Works, 'Dylan Mooney', June 2022

ABC News, 'Dylan Mooney Shares His Story', ABC News, Angel Parsons, 9 Feb 2021