



# Illumine Catalogue





# Illumine Exhibition

*Illumine* is a mini festival by a collective of professional Queensland based artists, Bahá'ís, from diverse cultural backgrounds – Ruha Fifita, Minaira Fifita, Temily Calabro and June Perkins.

This year is the bicentennial of Bahá'u'lláh's birth. Bahá'ís around the world are commemorating this anniversary through devoting their creativity and service to humanity to his remembrance, and an ongoing commitment to his vision that the 'Most Great Peace' is on its way.

We invite you to explore the theme of 'Illumination' with us through paintings, poetry, performance and photography – whatever your spiritual and cultural pathway.

*"... let each one of you be as a lamp shining forth with the light of the virtues of the world of humanity. . . Be illumined, be spiritual, be divine . . . 'Abdu'l-Bahá, The Promulgation of Universal Peace.*





*Exhibition Magda Community Artz*





# Ruha Fifita

## Artist Statement

Ruha Fifita was born in Vava'u, Tonga, and spent most of her life immersed in the culture and vibrancy of life in the Pacific. Her love for visual and performing forms of expression have been nurtured through a wealth of opportunities to explore and utilise the arts as a tool for community building.

Raised in a Baha'i family, her work upholds the belief that every culture has an important and indispensable role to play in enabling our world to continue to progress towards a civilization that is increasingly unified and prosperous, both materially and spiritually. Each are like priceless aspects of our cultural biodiversity that must continue to evolve as they guide our interactions and innate attraction to beauty and truth.

Working with this framework, much of Ruha's work reflects a desire and belief in the necessity to look back and advance understanding of the origins of traditional practices. In the realm of visual art this has led to deep exploration of the art of ngatu making; its role and function in society, the creative process it undergoes, and the sensibility and aesthetic that evolved to define that which is distinctively 'Tongan' yet world-embracing in the messages and spirit it can contain.



<https://www.facebook.com/OurUniqueArt/>

## SPRINGTIME 1 *Natural pigments on barkcloth*



# The Journey of the 'Springtime' Ngatu

This ngatu is at the beginning stages of development.

Large ngatu (tapacloth) pieces are major undertakings and require a lot of time and often involve collaborative completion.

The materials in the ngatu have been made by many communities. The ngatu is from Tonga, the dyes are from Fiji, and all throughout Tonga and New Caledonia. 'Divine Springtime' celebrates the potency of this time and expresses a world embracing vision not only in its content but in the process of its ongoing creation.

*Ruha invites anyone in Queensland interested to collaborate in the creation of this piece including during the Illumine Festival and will let us know of its journey to completion through updates on the Illumine blog.*



## SPRINGTIME 2

*Natural pigments on barkcloth*



## The Divine Springtime

*The divine religions are like the progression of the seasons of the year. When the earth becomes dead and desolate and because of frost and cold no trace of vanished spring remains, the springtime dawns again and clothes everything with a new garment of life. The meadows become fresh and green, the trees are adorned with verdure and fruits appear upon them . . . .*

*The divine Prophets are as the coming of spring, each renewing and quickening the teachings of the Prophet Who came before Him. Just as all seasons of spring are essentially one as to newness of life, vernal showers and beauty, so the essence of the mission and accomplishment of all the Prophets is one and the same.*

*'Abdu'l-Bahá, The Promulgation of Universal Peace*

# Minaira Fifita

## Artist Statement



Minaira Fifita is a visual and performing artist whose work aspires to reflect her love of creation and faith in the unity of humanity. She is nurtured by the teachings of the Baha'i faith, and her experiences as being raised as an artist within the island nation of Tonga. Her style of creativity blends together her Polynesian and Celtic roots and experiences of vibrancy, balance and harmony within the Pacific.

In this exhibition she explores the theme of unity through work inspired by the concepts from the Baha'i faith encouraging us to see the human family as the "flowers of one garden, leaves of one tree, the drops of one ocean, the waves of one sea"

[https://www.facebook.com/OurUniqueArt/  
minaira.kf@gmail.com](https://www.facebook.com/OurUniqueArt/minaira.kf@gmail.com)

## PEAU

*Natural pigments, acrylic paint  
and shellac on barkcloth*



## PRAYER BOOK COVERS

*Natural pigments, on barkcloth*



# Temily Calabro

## Artist Statement

Temily Calabro's work explores themes of nature as stylised representations and patterns. She works predominantly with relief prints and in mixed media on Tapa cloth.

She finds inspiration from the diverse range of cultures she has lived in throughout her life. From Tasmania to the Pacific, to the Navajo Nation and the Americas these places have become a part of her, and a part of the work she creates. She has been highly influenced by her childhood living in Fiji and later working in the Kingdom of Tonga.



Since she moved to Queensland she has been inspired by the unique flora and fauna in South East Queensland and its important and sometimes fragile place in the local ecosystems. As she continues in her art practice she explores the ever deepening issues of Cultural and Natural environments, and their changing and transient natures.

Temily explores 'sacred geometry' in her contributions to this exhibition.

<https://www.facebook.com/TemilyMeansPeace>

[TemilyMeansPeace@gmail.com](mailto:TemilyMeansPeace@gmail.com)

## SACRED GEOMETRY 1

*Gouache, earth pigment and ink  
on tapa*



## SACRED GEOMETRY 2

*Gouache, earth pigment and ink  
on tapa*



## SACRED GEOMETRY 3

*Gouache, earth pigment and ink  
on tapa*



## ILLUMINE

*Acrylic paint on Canvas*



## SEED

*Acrylic on Canvas*



## **FICUS MACROPHYLLA2**

*Natural Pigment ink Gouache*

*On tapa*



## **MANGROVES**

*Natural pigment watercolours*

*Ink on tapa*





## TREE

*Natural Dye, Ink Gouache  
On Tapa*



*In Exhibition, Magdas (top) Gold Coast (bottom)*



# June Perkins



## Artist Statement

June Perkins is a multi-arts creative, specialising in poetry, and currently residing in Brisbane. She combines: poetry, blogging, photography, story, and memoir.

Her work explores– childhood, youth, peace, ecology, spirituality, cultural diversity, resilience and empowerment.

She is inspired Rachel Carson Maya Angelou, Judith Wright, Oodgeroo, Dylan Thomas and the writings and teachings of Bahá'u'lláh.

Her cultural heritage is Mekeo (Papua New Guinean Australian), Australian and European, however she considers herself a world citizen who values all those she lives alongside and learns from in this journey called life.

In this exhibition she explores 'Illumination' as outer and inner illumination of the human spirit and the land. Dr June Perkins has a PhD in the empowerment gained through writing.

<http://juneperk.wix.com/gumbootspearlz>  
[gumbootspearlz@gmail.com](mailto:gumbootspearlz@gmail.com)

## THE DREAMER

*Photograph on canvas*



## THE DREAMER 2

*Photograph on canvas*



# The Dreamer

Do you see only  
an empty field  
a harvest been and gone?

Look again  
another planting is  
on its way.

This field has dreams.

*By June Perkins*



*In Exhibition Magda Community Artz*

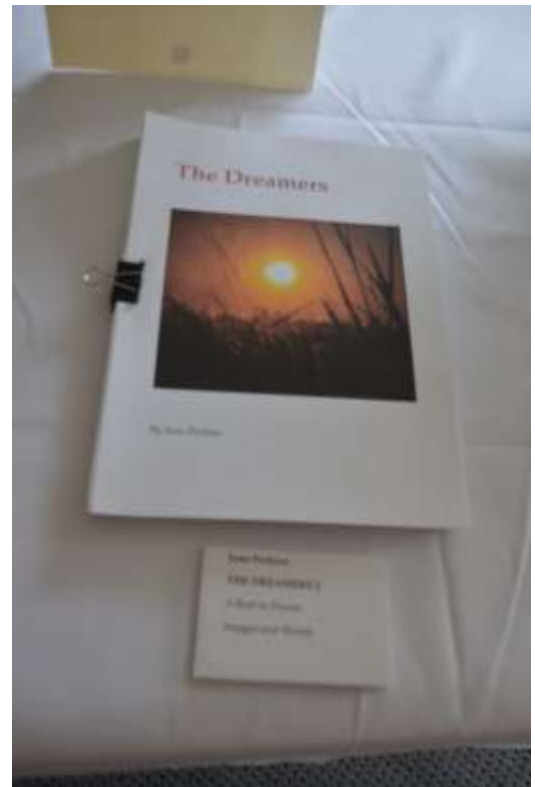
## THE DREAMERS 1

*A Book in Process*

*Images and words 100 pages plus*

*Thou art My glory and My glory fadeth not; thou art  
My robe and My robe shall never be outworn. Abide  
then in thy love for Me, that thou mayest find Me in  
the realm of glory."*

*- Bahá'u'lláh, The Hidden Words*



## THE DREAMERS 2

*A Book in Process, 48 page  
chapbook*

*Text only*



# ILLUMINE

*Photograph on canvas*

*(Also featured on banner)*

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## WORLD IS MIRAGE 1

*Photograph on canvas*



## WORLD IS MIRAGE 2

*Photograph on canvas*



*In Exhibition Magda community  
Artz*



# World is Mirage



*In Exhibition, Gold Coast*

*"Know ye that the world is like unto a mirage which the thirsty one thinks to be water; its water is a vapor; its mercy a difficulty; its repose hardship and ordeal; leave it to its people and turn unto the Kingdom of your Lord the Merciful."*

*-Abdu'l-Baha, Bahá'í World Faith*

## *Poem*

*Mirage world shimmers  
with deceiving moments until  
prayers release soul.*

*From Nine Illuminations,  
By June Perkins*

# RIVER OF EVERLASTING LIFE

*Photograph on canvas*



*O MY SERVANT! Abandon not for that which perisheth an everlasting dominion, and cast not away celestial sovereignty for a worldly desire. This is the river of everlasting life that hath flowed from the well-spring of the pen of the merciful; well is it with them that drink!*

- Baha'u'llah, *The Hidden Words*



*In Exhibition, Gold Coast*

## THE DIVINE BIRD

*Photograph on canvas*



### The Divine Bird

*'Release me,' said the soul  
as if it were a bird  
and the divine spirit heard  
bird song become  
notes of prayers and  
lost ones anticipating  
the future boat's arrival.*

*From Nine Illuminations,  
By June Perkins*

## BANNERS

### NATURE IS THE EMBODIMENT

*Outdoor Canvas banner*



### FATHOMLESS MYSTERY

*Outdoor Canvas banner*

### RIVER OF EVERLASTING LIFE

*Outdoor Canvas banner*



### EXHIBITION BANNER

*Outdoor Canvas banner*



**(These Works part of Brisbane Exhibition only)**

## **CULTURE GIRL 1**

*Photograph on canvas*



## **CULTURE GIRL 2**

*Photograph on canvas*



## GRASS SKIRTS

*Heritage item from Anna Gerard*

## GROWING UP AUSTRALIAN

*Family Story book, Hard cover*



*In Exhibition Magdas {with some  
of Temily's work}*



# **The Launch Programs were mcd by Temily Calabro and featured**

*Music*

*Poetry*

*Short Talks*

*Dance*

*Thank you to Magda Community Artz, Local Baha'i Community of Taringa, and Toowong, Gold Coast Local Spiritual Assembly, all those who assisted in many ways with the exhibition, including food, provision of equipment, hosting and publicising the exhibition.*

## ***Please Note***

*The intention of this exhibition was a gift to Baha'u'llah but if you wish to purchase any of the art – contact artists direct. Not all works are for sale. However sales of works will assist in the costs of putting on the exhibition.*

## ***Workshops***

Ruha Fifita  
Temily Calabro  
June Perkins

## ***Project blog***

*[beillumined.wordpress.com](http://beillumined.wordpress.com)*

*Your comments on the exhibition are welcomed.*

## LIST OF PERFORMANCES

### MAGDAS

Opening prayer:

‘E TE ATUA’ - Ruha Fifita, Minaira Fifita, Bethany Hemmings, Marley Fisher

‘ILUMINE,’ Sheridan Perkins, Sandon Perkins

Performance of Poetry: Swirling Something, Art as Gift of Holy Spirit, Prince of Peace, June Perkins

The Deer Hunter: Classical guitar style Benjamin Perkins and atmospheric guitar on arrival at launch

Mumford and Son’s Cover: Sheridan Perkins (vocals), Sandon Perkins (guitar)

Performance Original Dance, Ruha Fifita and talk on Divine Springtime Ngatu, collaborative art

Supper provided by Toowong and Taringa Baha’is

### GOLDCOAST

The Deer Hunter: Classical guitar style Benjamin Perkins

Opening prayers:

‘SHINE YE’ - Raneesha Saberi

‘E TE ATUA’ - Ruha Fifita, Minaira Fifita, Raneesha Saberi

Performance:

‘TE TAMA MAOHI’ - Ruha Fifita, Minaira Fifita, Raneesha Saberi

- Two more performances???

Performance of Poetry: Prince of Peace, Poet’s Tree, In Faith, June Perkins

Performance: Black Bird, Beatles, Instrumental guitar, Sandon Perkins

Performance Mumford and Son’s Cover: Sheridan Perkins (vocals), Sandon Perkins(guitar)

Performance: Original Dance, Ruha Fifita and talk on Divine Springtime Ngatu, collaborative art

# PERFORMERS











