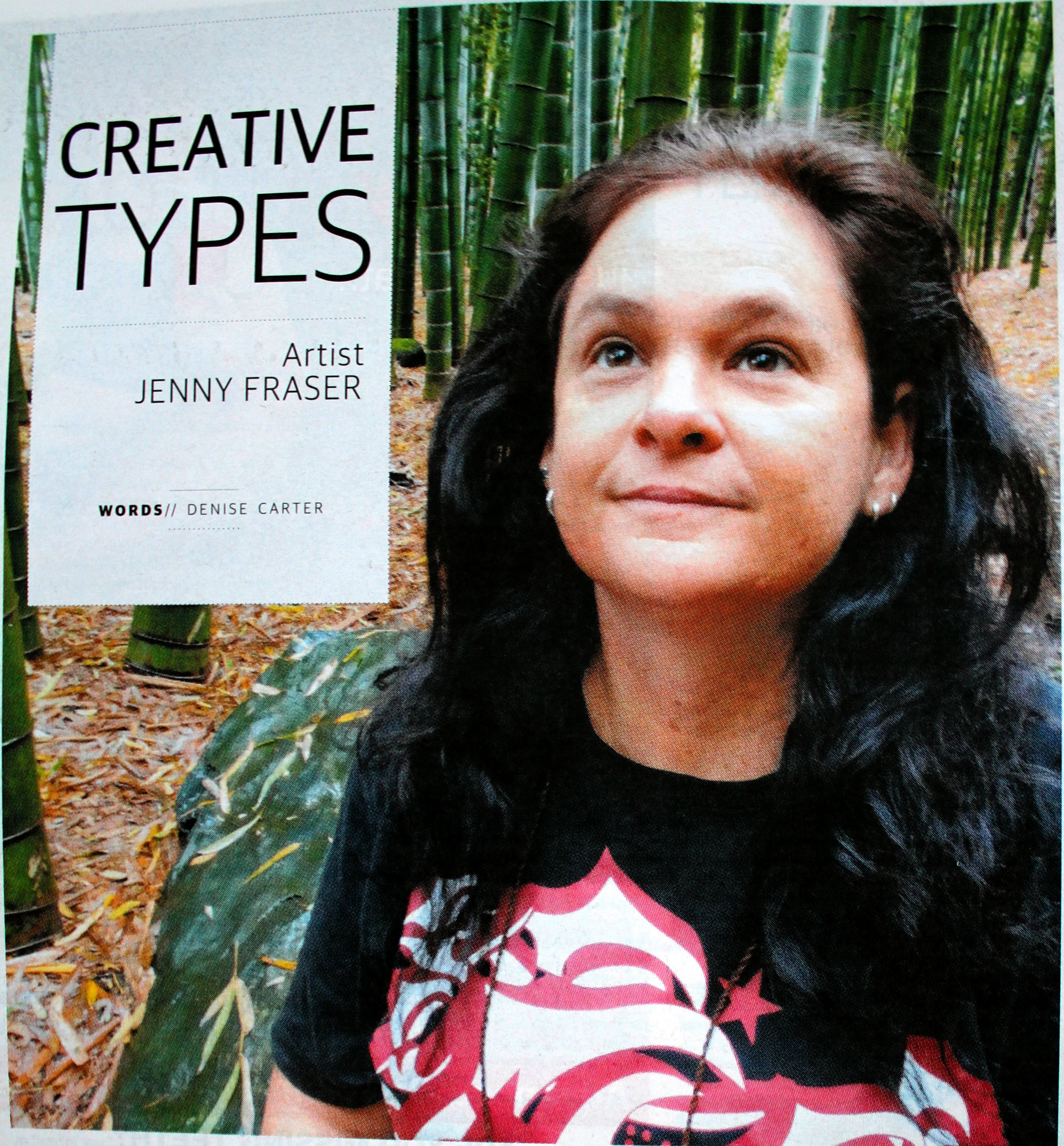


CREATIVE TYPES

Artist
JENNY FRASER

WORDS// DENISE CARTER



an artist and won her first art award when she was just 12 years old.
"Then when I went to Trinity Bay High School, I spent my lunch hours doing printworks," she says.

"So I was a practising artist even then."
She majored in visual art, film and TV while at university, so it was these subjects she taught in Cairns in the '90s, at Gordonvale, Woree and Smithfield and in south-east Queensland.

Jenny works primarily as a screen artist now and she wants to include new media artists in her film festival.

"It's for all art forms; for writing, theatre, production, design, anything using a screen

I'M USING THE CONCEPT OF THE MIDDEN AS A METAPHOR FOR COLLECTING STORIES

and making stuff for screen," she says.

A documentary will be made of the Solid festival (an international indigenous festival of the screen) and it will also be an opportunity for the creatives to mingle, brainstorm and to plan future projects.

"We've timed it for before CIAF so there should be hundreds of people," Jenny says.

"I wanted to expand the approach to indigenous art and perception."

The Midden Project will next go to Perth in July to the Joondalup Art Gallery with a new series of still images taken from blockbuster movies.

It is called Name that Beach Movie.

Then Jenny will curate an Australian Aboriginal new media online exhibition and 90-minute screening for the imagineNATIVE Film and Media Arts Festival in Toronto, Canada.

"This year the spotlight will be on Australia," Jenny says.

"CyberTribe (her online gallery) will also celebrate 15 years in 2015, so the show for imagineNATIVE this year, titled Digital Dreamtime, will hopefully be showcased in Australia then also."

Jenny's Midden Project is a result of an Australia Council Fellowship she was awarded in 2012 at the fifth National Indigenous Arts Awards held at the Sydney Opera House.

Sights from Sirens opened at the Kawasaki Art Museum in Japan on June 7. The Solid Screen festival will be near Ravenshoe in Innot Hot Springs on July 20. For more information, visit solidscreen.com.au

JENNY Fraser is a curator and artist who brings the work of indigenous Australia to the world. Jenny was in Auckland for a cultural symposium last week and earlier this month she was in Japan.

There, she opened the exhibition for the next instalment of her Midden Project at the 19th JAALA (Japan, Asia, African and Latin American Artists Association) International Art Exhibition.

"Everybody loved our work and said it was very poetic," Jenny says.

"This is particularly significant as a large group exhibition of women photographers is a first, and we have been really enthusiastic about responding to the midden theme, with everyone making special efforts in offering our captured moments in goodwill for the consideration of Japanese art lovers.

"I'm using the concept of the midden as a metaphor for collecting stories and a series of

Jenny Fraser (centre) with Michelle Blakeney (left) and Sharon Karami at the Kawasaki City Museum in Japan.



works exploring our beloved sea life, full of potential for sustenance and healing."

The exhibition, Sights from Sirens, brought to Kawasaki Art Museum in Japan was a photographic exhibition created by female indigenous artists from

all over Australia. "They were all from the perspective of our people, whether of the seascapes or the rainforest," Jenny says.

"In Japan, their view of Australia is of perhaps Uluru, which they call Ayers Rock, and the desert."

Jenny asked the photographers to take their images as if they were mermaids viewing their area for the first time and she collaborated with JAALA curator Saburo Inagaki to best showcase the work for the exhibition.

"Saburo is an old Japanese man in his mid 70s and is really proactive, so he is a great mentor to me," Jenny says.

"I am really inspired by his creative hard-working spirit and how happy he is to devote good energy to this exhibition of dialogue between our cultures."

Jenny has also organised a film festival named Solid for July for Innot Hot Springs, near Ravenshoe, which will coincide with the Cairns Indigenous Arts Fair (CIAF).

"My main job is as an artist," Jenny says.

"I'm also finishing my PhD so I'm really a student."

Jenny's PhD is on healing the spiritual divide with creative projects.

She says she has always been