Big Eye's focus has artists all animated

ABORIGINAL Australian and indigenous Canadian new media artists who draw on digital techniques as a part of ongoing cultural maintenance are featured in an exhibition now on show in Brisbane.

Called Big Eye: Aboriginal Animations, the exhibition is on display until 15 May at The Block, in QUT's Creative Industries Precinct at suburban Kelvin Grove.

Exhibition organisers say Big Eye 'reveals the intersection of traditional Aboriginal culture with contemporary culture and highlights how old and new practices are fused in today's society'.

Co-curator and Aboriginal Australian artist Jenny Fraser describes the animations as building upon traditional morals and highlighting current issues important to her culture.

"We strive to honour the past as our teacher, honour the present as our creation, and honour the future as our inspiration," she said.

"This is dreaming in action."

Big Eye features ultra-modern animation techniques such as computer-generated imagery, cyberspace and second-life programming, in addition to traditional techniques like claymation, where scenes are created from plasticine.

Ms Fraser says the array of animation used provides a strong visual element to communicate many dimensions of Aboriginal culture, and online projects introduce cyberspace as a neutral realm where ideas can be tested in an experimental and accepting atmosphere.

Big Eye artists view the online world as a form of escape to indigenous social politics and an environment to manipulate identity.

For more details, call (07) 3138 5495 or see www.ciprecinct.qut.com