



## City of Townsville Art Collection: Recent Acquisitions

2 December 2022 - 5 March 2023

### Australian Government's Cultural Gift Program

**Ann Thomson** was born in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia in 1933, currently living and working in Sydney. Her arts practice is based on painting, printmaking, and sculpting, she is known for her vibrant, expressive compositions. Often referred to as an abstract artist, she does not identify with the label as her work is drawn from visual memories of places and things; "I might abstract something, but I don't just paint shapes."

Thomson studied at the National Art School, Sydney, New South Wales, between 1957 and 1962. Her career is a balance of teaching and exhibiting throughout Australia and overseas. She has won numerous prizes including the 1998 Wynne Prize, 2005 Kedumba Drawing Prize and the 2002 Geelong Contemporary Art Prize, and her work is included in many important collections such as Art Gallery of New South Wales, Newcastle Regional Art Gallery, Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection, Madrid and Villa Haiss Museum, Germany.

Thompson is a significant Australian artist and arts educator with a long history of professional relationships with artists living and working in Townsville spanning decades. These artists include Anneke Silver, Robert Preston, Anne Lord, and Ron McBurnie, making many trips to Townsville and Magnetic Island to draw and paint. The City of Townsville Art Collection holds 15 artworks by Ann Thomson, including two works purchased in 1982, 12 prints donated by Ron and Bronwyn McBurnie, and one print donated by the artist in 2014 through the Australian Government's Cultural Gift Program.

The donation of three folios, *The Australian Legal Group Contemporary Print Collection, 1990 Collection: A Portfolio of Australian Woman Artists*, and *On this Island, Meeting and Parting*, containing 36 prints by significant Australian artists celebrating the visual language of printmaking and art made by female artists, printed at nationally renowned print studios, some of which are no longer publishing limited edition prints for corporate or private projects. Each folio contains a limited-edition print made by Ann Thomson. The painting *Water transit* by the donor is an excellent example of the artist's painting with the use of vibrant colours and her unique application of paint. This donation is a significant addition to the City of Townsville Art Collection under 6.2 Australian Art, Australian Modern and Contemporary Art. This collection area focuses on modern and contemporary art of Australia of all disciplines and media, including the Art of North Queensland and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art.

You can see a range of Ann Thomson's artworks in the City of Townsville Art Collection: *Recent Acquisitions* exhibition on display at Perc Tucker Regional Gallery 2 December 2022 – 5 March 2021.