

INGA HUNTER

WORKS FROM THE TAMA COLLECTION

20 JULY 2020 - 17 JANUARY 2021



ARTIST BIOGRAPHY INGA HUNTER

Inga Hunter is a mixed media artist, recognised for her contribution to the development of textile and fibre art in Australia, particularly in the field of experimental dyeing and batik.

Born in England in 1938 and arriving in Australia in 1947, Hunter was formally educated in Anthropology and undertook postgraduate studies in Education at Sydney University before pursuing her interest in textiles.

Largely self-taught, Hunter has gone on to present over 20 solo exhibitions over a career spanning 5 decades, as well as numerous group exhibitions. She is represented in private, corporate and public collections, including those of the New York Museum of Art and Design, the Powerhouse Museum, the Australian National Gallery and several state galleries.

For many years, Hunter has been a regular contributor to various industry bodies and publications including industry magazine staple *Textile Fibre Forum*. She founded the Surface Design Association of Australia and

has taught widely, including as a tutor at the University of New South Wales Craft Centre and as a lecturer in dyeing at the Sydney College of the Arts. Early in her career, she worked as a cartoonist for newspapers and magazines, reflecting: "The cartoon quality still surfaces through my work at times, which disturbs some people."

Ararat Gallery TAMA's collection includes several of Hunter's textile works including the sub-collection *The Imperium of Robes*, 1986-1989, exploring a mythical world of another time and place. In the 1990s, Hunter began exploring her heritage, discovering she was a descendent of a Scottish planter in Jamaica and that her great great grandmother was an African slave. With much left unknown about her heritage, Hunter has always relied on her imagination and intuition, working largely from her instincts, not always understood by audiences:

"Too strange, too colourful, too dark, just like I have always been, but I am compelled to keep on working because that is who I am."



Inga HUNTER

b 1938 Edgbaston, England

Work Journal 1978-1981

Mixed media

Gift of the artist, 1986

Collection of Ararat Gallery TAMA (Textile Art Museum Australia).

Image courtesy of the artist, Ararat Gallery TAMA, Ararat Rural City Council and MDP Photography & Video.

Cover image: Inga HUNTER b 1938 Edgbaston, England *The Forest People - Robe of the Keeper of the Pathways* 1986-1989 Handmade cotton and plant papers, fabric, sequins, beads, feathers, shell, thread, pastel, paint. Gift of the artist through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 1990. Collection of Ararat Gallery TAMA (Textile Art Museum Australia) 1978-1981.

MINIATURE ROBES FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE IMPERIUM

The Great Court of the Imperium consists of a large body of delegates from the three planets, presided over by an elected head. Irusaqi custom dictates procedure, and delegates from other cultures tend to follow Irusaq proper in the matter of ceremonial Robes, with the exception of the people of Ssisao, the most recent entry into the Imperium; and claimed to be the oldest city in the world.

The Robe worn by an Irusaqi delegate to the Council symbolises his/her role in society. Each Robe is individually designed for its wearer, and at the same time an identical miniature copy is made, to be stored permanently in the Archives. When the wearer either dies or relinquishes office the Robe itself is destroyed, leaving only the miniature: which is what you see in this gallery.



Inga HUNTER

b 1938 Edgbaston, England

Iboriis Sun Worshipper's Robe 1986-1989.

Handmade cotton and plant papers, beads, thread, feathers, copper, tapa cloth, pastel, paint. Gift of the artist through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 1990. Image courtesy of the artist, Ararat Gallery TAMA, Ararat Rural City Council and MDP Photography & Video.

List of works

***Cat in an Overcoat* 1982**

Silk, batik-dyed, hand-quilted, beaded, embroidered with silver thread. Indigisol and Naphthol dyes used. Held by Ararat Gallery TAMA on long-term loan from the Victorian State Craft Collection.

***Work Journal* 1978-1981**

Mixed media. Gift of the artist, 1986. Collection of Ararat Gallery TAMA.

MDP Photography & Video

***Inga Hunter Work Journal Stop Motion Video* 2020**

Duration: 5 min 13 sec. 1920x1080HD

***Noah's Ark* 1979**

Hand-stitched silk, dyed batik, padding. Purchased with the assistance of the Australia Council Crafts Board, 1981. TAMA collection.

***Threads of Gold* 1983**

New Zealand flax, handmade paper, gold thread, dyes. Purchased 1983. TAMA collection.

***Aquarium III* 1985-1986**

Handmade paper, thread, fabrics, dyes, heat transfer, paint and beading. Purchased 1986. TAMA collection.

***The Forest People - Three Quivers* 1986-1989**

Handmade plant papers, banana sheathes, bracken, lotus bar, red hot poker leaves, fabric thread, beads, paint. Gift of the artist through the Aust. Gov's Cultural Gifts Program, 1990. TAMA collection.

***The Forest People - Robe of the Keeper of the Pathways* 1986-1989**

Handmade cotton and plant papers, fabric, sequins, beads, feathers, shell, thread, pastel, paint. Gift of the artist through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 1990. TAMA collection.

***Iboriis Bone Bag* 1986-1989**

Handmade cotton and plant papers, ivy stems, bones, beads, thread, shells, paint, pastel, seeds. Gift of the artist through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 1990. Collection of TAMA.

***Iboriis Sun Worshipper's Robe* 1986-1989**

Handmade cotton and plant papers, beads, thread, feathers, copper, tapa cloth, pastel, paint. Gift of the artist through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 1990. Collection of TAMA.

***Iboriis Robe of the Keeper of the Dead* 1986-1989**

Handmade cotton and plant papers, beads, thread, fabric, bone, feathers, fur, mango seed case, seeds, paint. Gift of the artist through Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 1990. TAMA collection.

***Irusaq Presenter at Arms' Robe* 1986-1989**

Handmade paper, studs, thread, beads, metallic foil, gaskets, pins, braid, paint. Gift of the artist through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 1990. TAMA collection.

***Irusaq Voidsayer's Robe* 1986-1989**

Handmade cotton paper, braid, thread, metallic mesh, plastic, metal, beads, paint. Gift of the artist through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 1990. TAMA collection.

***Irusaq Robemaster's Robe* 1986-1989**

Handmade cotton paper, thread, cast paper, beads, fabric, paint, braid, metallic foil. Gift of the artist through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 1990. TAMA collection.

***Nrat-tuan Boat Leader's Robe* 1986-1989**

Handmade cast cotton paper, Kozo paper, feathers, beads, paint. Gift of the artist through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 1990. TAMA collection.

***Nrat-tuan Net Leader's Robe* 1986-1989**

Handmade cast cotton paper, Kozo paper, thread, fabric, beads, plastic, paint. Gift of the artist through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, 1990. TAMA collection.



Ararat Rural City

CREATIVE VICTORIA



Ararat Gallery TAMA is a cultural facility of Ararat Rural City Council



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