

new caledonia

OFFICIAL COUNTRY NAME	TERRITORY OF NEW CALEDONIA AND DEPENDENCIES
LANGUAGES	FRENCH, MELANESIAN AND POLYNESIAN DIALECTS
POPULATION	224,824
MEDIAN AGE	28.4 YEARS OLD
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT PER CAPITA	US \$15,000

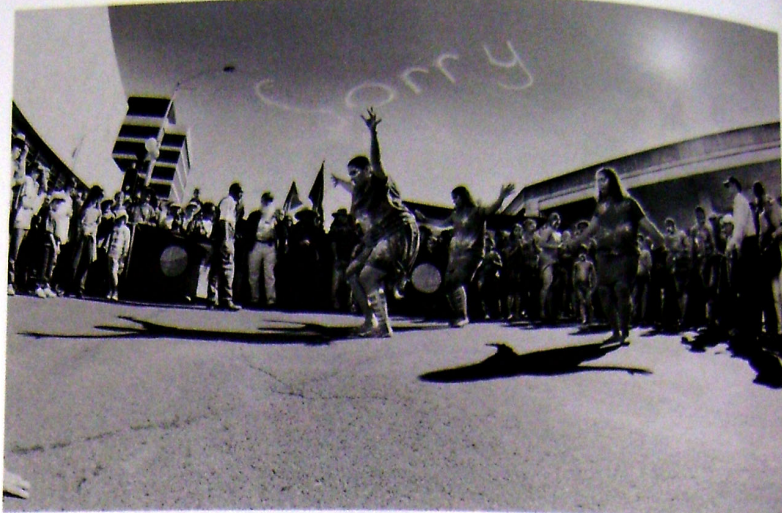
The statistical figures are from the CIA World Factbook.



TOTAL VALUE OF ART EXPORTED	US \$44,703
ARTS FUNDING	US \$2,144,316
ART PROGRAMS (UNIVERSITY-LEVEL)	N/A
STUDENTS ENROLLED	N/A
MUSEUMS EXHIBITING CONTEMPORARY ART (PUBLIC + PRIVATE)	1
CONTEMPORARY ART SPACES (NON-PROFIT)	1
COMMERCIAL CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERIES	2
FOUNDATIONS (NGO + PRIVATE)	0

The statistical figures are 2008 estimates. The figures are taken from the most recent censuses and information.*

Sources and Acknowledgments: Art Exported – United Nations Comtrade Database; Arts Funding – Government of New Caledonia, Supplementary Budget 2008, Culture Division; Siapo Arts Collective; Patrice Kaililekole, Ela To'omaga, Petelo Tuilalo.



JO-ANNE DRIESSENS. *Corrobooree 2000, The People's Walk for Reconciliation, Brisbane, 2000*, black-and-white photograph, 90 x 60 cm. Courtesy the artist.

Unlike many of its neighbors, New Caledonia has a stable

economy. Its long established nickel industry, combined with strong tourism and a territorial relationship with France, provides it one of the highest living standards in the Pacific. However, tensions continue to mount over the environmental impact of industry and the social disparity between indigenous Kanak and European populations. In 2006 New Caledonia joined the Pacific Islands Forum as an associate member, one step closer to autonomous rule. It is also a member of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), which has its headquarters in New Caledonia's capital, Nouméa.

The French government supports much of the art activity in the region and oversees the iconic **Jean-Marie Tjibaou Cultural Centre** in Nouméa, which was designed by Italian architect Renzo Piano and references Kanak village structures. The Cultural Centre houses the Agency for the Development of Kanak Culture (ADCK), which aims to promote and preserve Kanak archaeological and linguistic heritage, encourage contemporary modes of expression within Kanak culture and promote cultural exchanges.

The center's program of temporary exhibitions ranges from shows of woodcarving and anthropological photographs to contemporary art. Highlights in 2008 included a tribute to Kanak musician Jacques Kiki Kare, who died in late 2007, "S'y a pas toi, y'a pas moi" (March-June), with contributions by visual artists **Paula Gony Boi** and **Denise Tiavouane** alongside choreographer Richard Digoue, and "Latitudes – Lands of the World" (7/17-10/12), a touring exhibition of contemporary artists from around the globe, conceived by the City of Paris. The center also mounted "les autres/the others" (10/28/08-2/9/09), a touring exhibition that originated at Brisbane alternative space Raw

Space Galleries as a response to the Queensland Art Gallery's Asia-Pacific Triennial, last held in 2006-07. Curated by indigenous Australian new-media artist Jenny Fraser, the show featured works by Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Melanesian, Polynesian, Maori and Asian artists based in Australia, including Gary Lee's digital-print portraits of scantily clad men.

There are two commercial art galleries in New Caledonia. **Galerie Onze et Demi** shows works by the owner, local artist **Franck Chan San**, who paints tropical still lifes. **Lec Lec Tic**, now two years old, is run by artist Hélène Janet and supports artists producing painting, video, sculpture and installation work.

The big event on the horizon is the transfer of the Tjibaou Culture Centre's management from the French government to New Caledonia, scheduled to occur before 2011. Looking forward to 2009, two shows are scheduled in partnership with Tahiti and the **Trans Pacific Art Express**, a workshop program and exhibition curated by Thierry Fontaine from Reunion Island, which was featured in the "Latitudes" show and will include work by nine local artists. Overseas, **Jean-Jacques Poiwi**, a Kanak woodcarver, will be exhibited at the Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts in Taiwan. **ST**

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