



Belinda Close

1966 –
Lives QLD

Baby wobbegong 2007
Synthetic polymer paint on canvas

Redland Art Gallery Collection.
Acquired in 2007 with Redland Art Gallery Acquisition Funds.

Belinda Close, a lifetime resident of North Stradbroke Island, has created *Baby wobbegong* to be touched as much as seen. The markings on this creature are spiny, raised sections of paint, a type of three dimensionality that she has employed to “bring the wobbegong alive” for the viewer. Close spends time near the water on the weekends where her children swim and dive with her husband for mangrove jacks and other eating fish. “They dive at this special place, and always see the wobbegong. I want people to see what a beautiful creature he is, how special he is – and the old wobbegong is so often forgotten. I want people to see that beauty, so I put him up there in bright red.”

Close has been painting since she was a child, but became more focussed with the introduction of a TAFE course in painting in Dunwich in 2003. This course was developed by Steve Johnson from the School of Indigenous Australian People at the South Bank Institute of Technology. Close was one of the original members of the Salt Water Murris Quandamooka Inc Art Group, which was formed in 2005 as a direct result of the art tuition, provided to mature age students on the island. The group now has a gallery in Dunwich where work may be shown and sold.