

CLOWN FISH RECYCLED OUTDOOR FLOOR MAT

ARTIST CHARLIE WICKING

This recycled plastic floor mat is a representation of the Clownfish found in the coral in the Whitsunday Islands off the Queensland Coast. Their scientific name is Sea Anemone and they rely on the protection of the coral reef to keep them safe. Much of the coral that protects the fish is venomous to any other creatures that swim into it, however the clownfish and the coral co-habit harmoniously. Clownfish eat the leftovers from fish on the anemone and algae, such as copepods, isopods and zooplankton.

The Whitsunday Islands is a collection of island of various sizes off the central coast of Queensland, and approximately 1,400 kilometers north of Brisbane. The islands reach as far north as Bowen and as far south as Mackay. The traditional owners of the area are the Ngaro people and the Gia people (Birri Gubba language group) whose Juru Clan has the only legally recognised native title in the region.



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Product Code : BW08

ABOUT THE ARTIST CHARLIE WICKING

Charlie Wicking is an amazing artist who lives in Queensland, and she is Australian South Sea Islander and Aboriginal. Charlie has been painting approximately since 1999, and she also works in Early Childhood Education. As Charlie lives in a coastal area, she is inspired daily by her natural environment, particularly the sea. This local inspiration is reflected in her artworks. Charlie has a colourful and vibrant style of painting.

"My name is Charlie Wicking. My real name is Charmaine Marree Baggow. I was born in Mackay, Queensland. The Traditional Custodians of the land here and surrounding districts is the Yuibera, Barada Barna and Widi Tribes.

I am a descendant of Aboriginal and South Sea Islander people of this area. My South Sea Islander family came from the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu prior to being black birded to work in the cane fields in the Mackay District. In history books they are referred to as Kanakas. Some people are offended by the term. The black birding era is a dark page in Queensland's history.

I wish I knew all the stories my ancestors had to tell me but unfortunately time has erased a lot of the valuable details I want to pass on to my future grandchildren. I value my Ancestral past and I acknowledge my descendants proudly.

I love the area I live in, the wonder of the rainforests, the beauty of the sea, the harshness of the earth, when nature is at its hottest. It's my home, my sanctuary. It provides me with a muse that I can't get enough of, the inspiration for my art.

We have to protect the land and sea where we live and play, once it's gone, it's gone. You can't eat or drink money. If we protect country, country will protect and provide for us."

