

Explore shadowy landscapes

KickArts Contemporary Arts is presenting two dynamic and very different exhibitions, writes **Denise Carter**

DARK Cartographies is a new exhibition launching at KickArts this week and is the work of two of Queensland's experimental artists; Dr Keith Armstrong (pictured) and Lawrence English, with sound by Luke Lickfold.

Media artist Dr Armstrong says the idea is for the viewer to walk into a dark space, which will be immediately lit up by infra-red camera vision, and then the person's shadow will also drop into the space changing the sound and vision.

"It's like a human sundial using infra-red," Keith says.

The vision is made up of travelling botanical specimens in macro that have been accumulated from landscapes in the places the artists visit with accompanying field sound recordings of nature.

"So here, it's this time of year

"It's like a human sundial using infra-red"

in the bush in far north Queensland, and it's where the night ecology meets our own ideas of the night," he says.

This is the first time out for the exhibition, which was created especially for KickArts in Cairns, and Keith says it is part of a much larger piece, with each part reflecting the change of seasons based on a particular place. What he hopes people will enjoy at the gallery is a dark mysterious piece.

"It's about that which we don't see or hear – the after dark," he says.

Keith will present an artist talk on Saturday at 3pm in

Gallery Two before the official opening of the exhibition by KickArts chairman Russell Milledge at 3.30pm. Also being opened by Russell on Saturday, but at 3.30pm, is a new exhibition by KickArts called Collected, which celebrates a golden era of cultural expression in the far north.

The work is comprised of pieces created from 2006-'13 through KickArts printmaking programs and the expertise of indigenous artists from Cairns, the Cape and the Torres Strait.

The exhibition includes linoprints, etchings and more, alongside significant works gifted by artists.

SEE DARK CARTOGRAPHIES OPEN AT KICKARTS GALLERY 2 ON SATURDAY (MAR 15). COLLECTED OPENS THE SAME DAY AND RUNS UNTIL APRIL 19.

