



Short St. Gallery



Rupert Jack



Birth Year	1951
Birth Place	Mimili
Language Group	Pitjantjatjara
Region	APY Lands

Biography

"Jack's enigmatic pots use the clay surface as the palimpsest upon which to place his unique take on the traditional stories and legends from his community at Ernabella.." (Glenn Barkley, 2016)

"I was born in Mimili in 1951. I was still a little baby when I moved to Kenmore with my father and mother. My father worked for white-fellas digging wells and anything else. I stayed in Kenmore until I was a man. Then I moved to Ernabella for marriage. I have been a priest for over 20 years. I spent a long time travelling around, everywhere, Western Australia, Northern Territory, working for the church. Talking and singing, Inma. I still know traditional Tjukurpa. These are good stories for Anangu. They show you how to look after your people." (Rupert Jack)

Rupert Jack is renowned for his striking hand built forms that speak of his country, law and faith. His work depicts the maku (witchetty grub), tjala (honey ants), ili (bush fig), kaltu kaltu (bush seed that is ground into a flour to make a kind of damper and also Rupert's father's name) and ngata (bush berry) dreaming, as well as biblical stories of Moses and Abraham.

Informed by his knowledge of both traditional stories and the bible his work often draws connections between the two. Interestingly he employs the same visual language and iconography to depict both themes.

In 2016 Rupert was featured in the Australian Biennale of Ceramics, curated by Glenn Barkley. In the catalogue Barkley described Rupert's work as celebrating "clays talismanic potential."



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Exhibitions

- 2017 NATSIAA, MAGNT, Darwin, NT
- 2017 Ngura Kutjupa, Walytja Kutju: Different communities, one family - Tangentyere Artists, Alice Springs, NT
- 2017 Clay Stories: Indigenous ceramics from remote Australia - Sabbia Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2017 Artists of the APY Lands: 2017 - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2016 Nganampa Kililpi Kuwartija Tjuta pakani: Our Rising Stars - Hazelhurst Regional Community Gallery, NSW
- 2016 Nganampa Kililpi: Our Stars - Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre
- 2016 Desert Mob - Araluen Arts Centre
- 2016 Paluru tjukurpa pulka kanyilpai: He keeps our stories safe - raft Artspace, Alice Springs NT
- 2016 Art from the APY Lands - Woolloongabba Art Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
- 2016 Australian Ceramics Biennale: OVERUNDERSIDEWAYS DOWN - Manly Art Gallery & Museum
- 2015 Tjukurpa Kunpu / Strong Culture: HOLIDAY SHOW 2015-2016 - Harvey Art Projects, USA
- 2015 Desert Mob - Araluen Arts Centre
- 2015 Wati tjuta-ku Tjukurpa kunpu ngaranyi – All the men have strong stories, always there - raft Artspace, Alice Springs NT
- 2015 Yangupala Tjuta Waakarinyi (Many Young People Working) - Sabbia Gallery, Paddington NSW
- 2015 Paysages Aborigènes incarnés de l'APY land (Incarnated Aboriginal landscape from the APY lands) - Aboriginal Signature, Brussels
- 2015 Colours of Nature: Australian contemporary art - Shinsegae gallery, Korea
- 2014 Tjulpirpa wiya - Clay! - raft Artspace, Alice Springs NT
- 2014 Desert Mob 2014 - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT
- 2014 Nganana Kulilpai Nganampa Tjukurpa - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2014 Warkarintja: Fifteen Years - Sabbia Gallery, Paddington NSW
- 2013 Ernabella Ceramics - Raft ArtSpace, Alice Springs NT
- 2013 Desert Mob 2013 - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT
- 2013 ReGeneration: established & emerging talents of Indigenous Art - McCulloch & McCulloch, Shoreham, VIC
- 2013 Putitja: From Spinifex Country - Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2013 APY Survey Exhibition - Outstation Gallery, Darwin NT
- 2012 Desert Mob 2012 - Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs NT
- 2012 Uwankara Kurunpa Kutju-Tjara - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2012 Kapi Ukalinganyi - Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney NSW
- 2011 Ernabella Undiscovered - Tunbridge Gallery, Margaret River WA
- 2011 Nganana Ngura-ku Ninti, Nganana Ngura Kanyini (We know our land, we keep



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our Land) - raft Artspace, Alice Springs NT
2011 Ngura Kutju, Tjukurpa Pulkatjara, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2010 A Watiku Exhibition, Raft Artspace, Alice Springs, NT

Collections

Artbank,
National Museum Of Australia,

Awards

2017 NATSIAA, MAGNT, Darwin, NT

Bibliography

2016 Overundersidewaysdown (exhibition catalogue) featured within, The Journal of Australian Ceramics (Vol 55 No 1)