



Short St. Gallery



PEDRO WONAEAMIRRI

Born: 22/7/74
Skin name: Mulipurrula (White Cockatoo)
Birth Place: Milikapiti, Melville Island
Language Group: Tiwi
Region: Tiwi Islands

Biography

DANCE: Jilarti (Brolga)

Pedro Wonaeamirri was born in 1974. He grew up on Melville Island at Pularumpi (Garden Point). As a teenager he moved with his family to Milikapiti (Snake Bay), a community on the other side of the island. He was educated at a boarding school in Darwin, and fortuitously in 1989, on his return to Milikapiti, the fledgling arts centre Jilamara Arts and Craft had commenced. Pedro Wonaeamirri's country is on the eastern side of Melville Island "the land or country where I come from is my father's father, my grandfather".

Pedro Wonaeamirri's art is steeped in Tiwi tradition; he has known no other way of communicating and thus his paintings, based on pwoja- body painting and his carved Pukumani Poles are his link to the tradition and to the future of the Tiwi people.

Tiwi art is derived from ceremonial body painting and the ornate decoration applied to Pukumani funerary poles, Tunga bark baskets, and associated ritual objects made for the Pukumani ceremony. Traditionally the deceased Tiwi people are buried on the day they pass away, but the Pukumani ceremonies are performed six months to several years after the death.



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Solo Exhibitions

- 2014 Nini Parlamari: Amintiya Ningani - Old Ways: New Perspectives – Pedro Wonaeamirri & Patrick Freddy Puruntatameri, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2011 Ninganuwanga Jilamara – Forever Painting, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2009 Pwoja my jilamara Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2008 Kartukuni amintiya Jilamara – Ironwood and Painting, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2006 Pedro Wonaeamirri, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2005 Ngingingilawa Jilamara, Alcaston Gallery at The Depot, Sydney, NSW
- 2004 Ngingingilawa Yirrajirima Solo Exhibition (My third solo exhibition), Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2003 Pwoja – Body Paintings, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2001 Pedro Wonaeamirri, Alcaston Gallery Melbourne, VIC

Group Exhibitions

- 2019 turnuwa amintiya kirjipuni, Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2019 Defying Empire (travelling exhibition), Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney, NSW
- 2019 Defying Empire (travelling exhibition), Mildura Art Gallery, Mildura, VIC
- 2019 Defying Empire (travelling exhibition), Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo, NSW
- 2019 Defying Empire (travelling exhibition), QVMAG, Hobart, TAS
- 2018 Fig Bilbao Art Fair, in conjunction with Print Council of Australia, Bilbao, Spain
- 2018 Defying Empire (travelling exhibition), University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane, QLD
- 2018 Tamaranthi Art Fair, Tandanya, Adelaide, SA
- 2018 Defying Empire NIAT III, Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory, Darwin, NT
- 2018 Ngingingawula Awirankiniwaki, Double Tree Hilton, Darwin, NT
- 2018 Tim, Tom E., Harry, Rusty, Tiger & Pussycat Recent works on Paper with Basil Hall, Nancy Severs Gallery, Canberra, ACT
- 2018 Jane McKenzie In the service of poetry & Jilamara Arts, Koskela Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2018 Tanz Im Mondenschein, AboriginalArt Ausstellung, Art Karlsruhe, Freiburg and Schorndorf, Germany
- 2018 Palaneri - Aboriginal Art Der Tiwi, Art Kelch, Freiburg, Germany
- 2017 Being Tiwi, Morree Plains Gallery, Morree, NSW
- 2017 Defying Empire NIAT III, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, ACT
- 2017 Being Tiwi, Glasshouse Port Macquarie, NSW
- 2017 Tiwi Time, Art Mob, Hobart, TAS



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- 2017 Being Tiwi, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, WA
2017 Yiringinkiri Pwoja, Double Tree Hilton, Darwin, NT
2017 Ngini Parlingarri Amintiya Ningani, (past, present, future), Nomad Art Gallery, Darwin, NT
2017 Ngini Parlingarri Amintiya Ningani, (past, present, future), Collins Place Gallery Melbourne, VIC
2016 Being Tiwi, Artspace, Mackay, QLD
2016 Being Tiwi, Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide, SA
2015 Being Tiwi, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, NSW
2014 Jilamara kapi nginingawla ratuwati kapi nginingingila ratuwati (Jilamara from our sland to your island), Art Mob, Hobart, TAS
2013 "We are Tiwi", Ketchum, Idaho, USA
2013 Nga-wuja arungwapi – We are going forward, Tiwi Art Network, Darwin, NT
2012 Earth on Paper III – Seva Frangos Art, Perth, WA
2012 Pedro Wonaeamirri & Patrick F Puruntatameri New Works – Alcaston, Melbourne, VIC
2012 WOW, major survey of collection, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Mornington, VIC
2012 Nginingawula Jilamara kapi purnguparri – our designs on bark, Outstation Gallery, Darwin, NT
2012 Parlini amintiya Awirankini – Old and New, Tiwi Art Network, Darwin, NT 2012 Earth on Paper III – Seva Frangos Art, Perth, WA
2011 Home & Away – Limited Edition Prints from APW, Australian Embassy, Washington DC
2011 nginimuwila kurrujipini – Our colour, Tiwi Art Network, Darwin, NT
2010 White- Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
2010 Kumunupunari - Season of Smoke Tiwi Art Network, Darwin, NT
2009 Parruwarti Angawilla Jilamara – Earth our Colour Chapman Canberra, ACT 2009 Earth on paper 2, Seva Frangos Gallery, Perth, WA
2009 Islands in the Sun, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2009 Mukumuwu – To be Together Tiwi Art Network Exhibition Darwin, NT
2009 Jilamara Kangi, Colour on Paper, Tunbridge Gallery, Margaret River, WA
2008 New Paintings and Carvings, Hogarth Gallery Sydney, NSW
2008 80x30, Seva Frangos Gallery, Perth, WA
2008 Yimwarlini – new work from Jilamara, Raft Artspace, Darwin, NT
2007 Tiwi Together, Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney, NSW
2007 Red, Yellow, Black, White, Raft Artspace, Darwin, NT
2007 De Overkant / Downunder, Den Haag Sculpture 2007, The Hague, Holland

2006 Tallis Foundation National Works on Paper Award, Mornington, VIC
2006 Yirrajirima murrakupuni ngawurraningimarri, Tiwi Art Network, Darwin, NT
2006 Jilamara: new etchings from Melville Island, Northern Editions, Darwin, NT



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- 2006 Jilamara: new etchings from Melville Island, Northern Editions, Alison Kelly Gallery Melbourne, VIC
- 2006 Jilamara Tiwi, Soma Galleries, Adelaide, SA
- 2006 Ngawila jilamara: our design, Aboriginal & Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2006 Ratuwati amintiya ratuwati: Island to Island, Art Mob, Hobart, TAS
- 2005 All About Art, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2005 Yirrarra – Kulama amintiya Pukumani, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2005 Aboriginal Vision in Contemporary Australian Art, Wright Exhibition Space, Seattle, USA
- 2005 Primavera, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, NSW
- 2004 Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, USA (Sorry Business Installation)
- 2004 Place Made: Australian Print Workshop, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 2004 Gallery Gondwana, Alice Springs, NT
- 2004 National Works on Paper Awards, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Mornington VIC
- 2004 Nginingawula Tangarima (Our Country), Australian Print Workshop Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2004 Living Tiwi: Tiwi Awuta Yimpanguwi, Museum für Völkerkunde, Hamburg, Germany in association with Jilamara Arts and Crafts
- 2004 Milikapiti Turtiyanginari: Milikapiti Ochre, RAFT Artspace, Darwin, NT
- 2004 Melbourne Art Fair, represented by Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2004 Dreamtime's Door: Art Aborigen Australia Contemporani (1971-2004), Fundacio Caixa de Girona, Spain, touring Girona and Barcelona, September 2004-2005
- 2003 Waterhole, RAFT Artspace at GRANTPIRRIE Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2003 ARCO 2003, with Alcaston Gallery, Madrid, Spai
- 2003 All About Art, Alcaston Gallery at Depot Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2003 Moon, one icon, many stories, Short St. Gallery, Broome, WA; Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2003 Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT
- 2002 People in a Landscape, Australian Print Workshop touring exhibition, Germany, Russia, Switzerland, and Turkey. 2002-2003
- 2003 Let's Keep Our Art Strong: Recent works from the Jilamara Artists, Raft Artspace, Darwin, NT
- 2002 Pumpuni Jilamara, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW
- 2002 All About Art, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2002 Spirituality and Australian Aboriginal Art, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2002 Melbourne Art Fair, represented by Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2002 2002 – 2006 Kiripurani, Artbank collection international touring exhibition South Pacific, South East Asia, Europe, Africa, Middle East, Latin America
- 2001 Spirituality and Australian Aboriginal Art, Madrid, Spain



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- 2001 Jilamara, Jilamara Framed Gallery, Darwin, NT
2001 Islands in the Sun Australian National Gallery, Canberra, ACT
2001 Island Images Australian Print Workshop, Melbourne, VIC
2001 Jilamara- New Work Redback Art Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
2001 Taykwapi Tiwi RAFT Artspace, Darwin, NT
2000 Beyond the Pale, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA
2000 Melbourne Art Fair 2000, represented by Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2000 All About Art, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2000 This Earth for Us, Commonwealth Institute, London
2000 People in a Landscape Australian Print Workshop, Melbourne, VIC
2000 Heritage Art Award, Canberra, ACT
2000 From Mythology to the Present, Wuerzburg, Germany
2000 Mountford Bark Collection Etchings, Australian Print Workshop, Melbourne, VIC

2000 State of My Country, Hogarth Galleries Sydney, NSW
2000 Heritage Art Award, Canberra, ACT
1998 Gli Aborigeni Australiani Una Storia Forty Thousand Ani. Castello Sforenco,
1998 Milandeano Sale Viscontee, Italy
1998 The Old and the New, Gallery Gondwana, Alice Springs, NT
1998 Parlina Jilamara Kapi Urukka Tarpurrini Amintiya (Old Designs on Long
1998 Canvas and Paper) Mossenson Gallery Subiaco, WA
1998 All About Art, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
1998 ACAF6, represented by Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
1998 Spirit Country: Gantner - Myer Collection. California Palace of the Legion of
1998 Honour, San Francisco, USA
1998 Tiwi on Wood, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
1998 A Thousand Journeys, touring exhibition
1998 The Work of the Tiwi, Framed Gallery, Darwin, NT
1998 Perspecta. New South Wales Art Gallery, Sydney
1998 Talkback – Living Here Now, Art and Politics, Australian Perspecta 1999, Art
1998 Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW

1997 First Person Plural Betty Rymer Gallery, Chicago, USA
1997 Old Patterns Framed Gallery Darwin, NT
1997 Old Tiwi. Alcaston House Gallery Melbourne, VIC
1997 Small Designs - Jewellery and Paintings Savode Gallery Brisbane, QLD
1997 Keeper of the Mimi Spirit, October Gallery, London
1996 Tiwi People from Melville Island. Anima Gallery, Adelaide, SA
1996 Masterpieces from Milikapiti Savode Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
1995 Jilamara Kapi Yurruka Manimpurua, (Designs on Long Canvas and
1995 Pukumani Poles). Alcaston House Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
1994 Art of the Tiwi, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, VIC; Touring exhibition
1994 Shepparton Art Gallery, Shepparton, VIC; Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery,



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Hobart, TAS; Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Ballarat, VIC; Tandanya Gallery, Adelaide, SA (1994-1995)

- 1993 The Body Tiwi: Aboriginal Art from Melville and Bathurst Islands, University
- 1993 Gallery, University of Tasmania at Launceston, TAS
- 1993 Time and Tide, Adelaide Festival Centre Foyer, Adelaide, (touring)
- 1992 Ngingingawula Jilamara Kapi Purunguparri (Our Designs on Bark), National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, VIC
- 1991 Jilamara, Alcaston House Gallery, Melbourne, VIC

Fellowships & Awards

- 1994 NATSIAA, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin
- 1995 NATSIAA, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin
- 1996 Australia Council Fellowship, International Year of Tolerance.
- 2000 Young Australian of the Year, Arts Category
- 2004 NATSIAA, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin
- 2004 29th Annual Shell Fremantle Print Award, Fremantle Arts Centre, WA
- 2005 NATSIAA, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin
- 2007 Togart Contemporary Art Award, Darwin
- 2007 NATSIAA, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin
- 2009 NATSIAA, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin
- 2012 NATSIAA, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin
- 2017 Finalist, NATSIAA, MAGNT, Darwin, NT

Collections

- National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- Museum of Victoria, Melbourne.
- National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne.
- Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth
- Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
- National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour, Sydney.
- Commonwealth Institute, London
- Artbank, Sydney
- Gantner Myer Collection
- Gordon & Marilyn Darling Collection, Melbourne
- Levi-Kaplan Collection, Seattle, USA
- The British Museum England
- Murdoch University Collection, Perth
- Edith Cowan University Art Collection, Perth
- Wesfarmers Collection, Perth



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Selected Bibliography

Ngingingawula Jilamara kapi purunguparri (Our Paintings on Bark) J. Bennett Gallery Monthly Magazine of the National Gallery Society of Victoria, September. 1992

The Body Tiwi Aboriginal Art from Melville and Bathurst Islands catalogue. The University Gallery, University of Tasmania at Launceston 1993

Art of the Tiwi from the Collection of the National Gallery of Victoria, catalogue. NGV, Melbourne 1994

Australian Perspecta Living Here Now: Art & Politics Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney 1999

Isaacs, J. Spirit Country Hardie Grant Books, San Francisco 1999

Beyond the Pale catalogue, Art Gallery of SA, Adelaide 2000

James, B. Festival's King Hit, Sydney Morning Herald, 11th March 2000

Kean, J. The Diversity of Practice- Political Theatre in Beyond the Pale, Artlink issue 20 #1 2000

People in a Landscape catalogue. Australian Print Workshop Melbourne

Islands in the Sun- Prints by Indigenous Artists of Australia and the Australasian Region Roger Butler & Brian Robinson (Eds) ANG/Thames and Hudson 2001

Print Projects: Research, Record, Reclaim Indigenous Cultural Material, Imprint, Anne Virgo, Vol. 35, Number 2, Winter 2000.

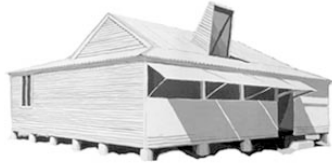
Kiripurani: Contemporary Art from the Tiwi Islands, Jacki Dunn, exhibition catalogue, Artbank Sydney, 2002.

Global Village ? Tiwi Pukumani Poles, Broadcast 15th November 2002, SBS TV.

Sunday Circle Magazine, Artist Interview, Malta, March 2004.

Watson, K. Pumpuni Jilamara (Good Design), Look, Art Gallery Society of New South Wales, April, 2002.

Accessing Yiribana ? We have a readymade product ? Just add water?, Look, Art Gallery



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Society of New South Wales, July, 2002

Place Made: Australian Print Workshop, Roger Butler and Anne Virgo (eds), National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, 2004.

Message Stick ABC Website(
<http://www.abc.net.au/message/blackarts/visual/s1138434.htm>) ?Tiwi island artist, Pedro Wonaeamirri, a profile , Nancia Guivarra, 23rd June 2004.

Colour out of the islands , Felicity Allen, The Herald Sun, July 23, 2004

Pedro Wonaeamirri: Celebrating Australian Tiwi culture through art , The Circle Magazine, Malta, 2004.

Kiripuranji: Contemporary Art from the Tiwi Islands , Tune In Magazine, Malta, 2004.

Living Tiwi: Tiwi Awuta Yimpanguwi, Jilamara Arts and Crafts Association, 2004.

Tradition Today: Indigenous Art in Australia, Art Gallery of New South Wales, 2004.

Schwerin, M. Kayimwagakimi: The painting of Raelene Kerinauia and Pedro Wonaeamirri, Art Monthly Australia, March 2005 #177

Primavera 2005: exhibition by young Australian artists, Museum of Contemporary Art Limited, Sydney 2005.

Art & Soul: ABC broadcast-Documentary by Hetti Perkins and Hibiscus Films, Sydney 2010

Healing Art, Nicholas Rothwell, The Australian, 2013