



Short St. Gallery

SHIRLEY PURDIE



Born	1947
Language Group	Gija
Region	Kimberley

BIOGRAPHY

Shirley Purdie (Birmariya) has been painting for more than twenty years and is an artist of increasing significance and seniority. Her cultural knowledge and artistic skill complement each other to produce a practice that holds great strength. Shirley is also a prominent leader in Warmun community and an incisive cross-cultural communicator.

Inspired by more senior Warmun artists including her late mother, the great Madigan Thomas, as well as Rover Thomas and Queenie McKenzie, Shirley began to paint her country in the early 1990's. Shirley's uncle, artist Jack Britten, said to her, "Why don't you try yourself for painting, you might be all right".

Shirley says: "it's good to learn from old people. They keep saying when you paint you can remember that country, just like to take a photo, but there's the Ngarranggami (Dreaming) and everything. Good to put it in painting, your country, so kids can know and understand. When the old people die, young people can read the stories from the paintings. They can learn from the paintings and maybe they want to start painting too." Shirley's body of work explores sites and narratives associated with the country of her mother and father and is characterised by a bold use of richly textured ochre.

Significant places such as Baloowa, Jirragin and Gilban lie on country now taken in by Violet Valley and Mabel Downs cattle stations. Much of her work also explores spirituality and the relationships between Gija conceptions of Ngarranggami (Dreaming) and Catholicism. In



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2007 Shirley was awarded the Blake Prize for Religious Art for her major work Stations of the Cross. Colonial histories of the region also figure in Shirley's work in which she relates accounts of early contact, massacre, warfare and indentured labour since the incursion of pastoralists into Gija land in the late 1800's.

Shirley is presently working on major exhibition and publication of great cultural and ecological value, documenting through painting and in Gija language the plants and trees of her country.

SOLO EXHIBITONS

- 2014 Gilban - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2012 Alcaston Gallery - Melbourne, VIC
- 2004 Boutwell Draper Gallery, Sydney, NSW

EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 For the Women - Tandanya, Adelaide
 - 2016 Telling Tales: excursions in narrative form - Museum of Contemporary Art, Australia
 - 2015 LIVELY: New Prints from Warmun Arts - Nomad Arts, Darwin NT
 - 2015 Garnkiny: Constellations of Meaning - Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
 - 2014 Garnkiny: Constellations of Meaning - RMIT Gallery, Melbourne, Vic
 - 2013 Jadagen Warnkan Barnden — Changing Climate in Gija Country - Goulburn Regional Gallery, NSW
 - 2013 Gija Manambarram Jimerrawoon – Gija Senior People Forever - Australian Embassy, Paris, France
 - 2013 Jadagen Warnkan Barnden — Changing Climate in Gija Country - The Cross Art Projects, Sydney, Australia
 - 2010 Warmun - Our Earth Our Story, Art Images Gallery, Norwood, SA
 - 2010 Kimberley Aboriginal Artists, Cross Cultural Art Exchange, Darwin, NT
 - 2009 The Youngest One, Chapman Gallery - Canberra, ACT
 - 2009 Ochre Dreaming: Stories from the East Kimberley - ReDot Gallery, Singapore
 - 2009 Warmun Ochres: Rich Earth - Gadfly Gallery, Perth, WA
 - 2009 Menagerie: Contemporary Indigenous Sculpture Australian Museum and Object Gallery - touring nationally
 - 2009 Sharing Differences on Common Ground: Mangkaja, Mowanjum, Waringarri, Warmun, Holmes a Court Gallery, Perth, WA
 - 2009 Warmun Ochres: Rich earth. Gadfly Gallery, Perth, WA
 - 2009 Menagerie: Contemporary Indigenous Sculpture, Australian Museum & Object Gallery, touring nationally
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- 2009 The Youngest One, Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT
 - 2009 Ochre Dreaming: Stories from the East Kimberley, ReDot Gallery, Singapore



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2008 Blake Prize Touring Exhibition, NSW & VIC
2008 New Voices in Gija Art, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, VIC
2008 The Women of Warmun, Ten Years On, Gadfly Gallery, Perth, WA
2008 Traces of Country: Indigenous Fine Art Prints, Gecko Gallery, Broome, WA
2008 East of East Kimberley: Warmun in Asia, ReDot Gallery, Singapore
2008 25th Telstra NATSIAA, Musuem & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, NT
2008 Warmun at Ten, Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Darwin, NT
2008 Warmun at Ten: A Decade of Warmun Art, Hogarth Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2008 A Stint of Prints: New Etchings from Warmun Art Centre, Nomad Art Productions, Darwin, NT
2007 Warmun Snapshot, Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Darwin, NT
2007 Dog Dreamings, Seva Frangos Art, Perth, WA
2007 Greetngs from Turkey Creek, Mary Place Gallert, Sydney, NSW
2007 Warda Wurraren (all kinds of stars), Raft Artspace, Darwin, NT
2007 Palya Art in Melbourne, Melbourne, VIC
2007 Ochre, Brushes, Canvas: New Work from Warmun, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, NSW
2007 Ngarrangkarni & Christianity, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2006 Warmun Art Centre Presents, Mary Place Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2005 New Work from Warmun, Gadfly Gallery, Perth, WA
2005 Warmun Group Show, Framed Gallery, Perth, WA
2005 Best of Warmun, Gadfly Gallery, Dalkeith, Perth, WA
2004 Gallery Gondwana Group Show, Alice Springs, NT
2003 Recent works by Warmun Artists, Darwin, NT
2002 The World Luxury Cruise Ship in conjunction with Thornquest Gallery
2002 Thornquest Gallery, Gold Coast, QLD
2002 Bush painting, Chapel off Chapel, Melbourne, VIC
2002 Collectors Show in association with Seva Frangos, Span Gallery, Flinders St, Melbourne, VIC
2002 Easter Show, Bett Gallery, Hobart, TAS
2002 Shirley Purdie and Gordon Barney, Framed Gallery, Darwin, NT
2002 Coomalie Culture Centre, Bachelor, NT
2002 Warmun Group Show, Flinders University Art Museum, Adelaide, SA
2002 Women of the East Kimberly, Tandanya, Adelaide, SA
2001 Grand Opening Exhibition of Thornquest Gallery, Thornquest Gallery, Group Show, Gold Coast, QLD
2001 Past Modern, Short Street Gallery, Australia Square, Sydney
2001 Four Women of Warmun, Artplace, Perth International Festival, WA
2001 New Painting's for warmun Art Centre, Fireworks Gallery, Group Show, Perth, WA
2001 Ochres, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2001 Das Verborgene im Sichtbaren, Staedtsche Galerie Wolfsburg, (in cooperation with Aboriginal Galerie Baehr, Speyer), Germany
2001 Short on Size, Groups show with jiliamara, Balgo Hills and Warmun Artists, Short



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Street Gallery, Broome, WA

2001 Beyond Wings, an exhibition of Indigenous Art selected by Helen Read during her travels, Flinders University Art Museum, Adelaide, SA

2001 Grand Opening Exhibition of Thornquest Gallery, Group show, Thornquest Gallery, Gold Coast, QLD

2000 Ben Grady Gallery, Canberra, ACT

2000 Kunst Der Aborigines, Galerie Baehr, Germany

2000 Galerie Australis, Adelaide, SA

2000 Bett Gallery, Hobart

2000 The Art of Place, National Indigenous Heritage Art Award, Canberra

2000 State of My Country, Hogarth Galleries, Paddington, Sydney

2000 Michael Carr Gallery, Sydney

2000 Melbourne Art Fair (Artbank & Bett Gallery, Hobart)

2000 Commonwealth Institute, London, UK

2000 Anthropological Museum, Freiburg, Germany

1999 Hogarth Galleries, Paddington, Sydney

1999 Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, Perth

1999 Hale School Annual Art Exhibition, Perth

1999 East Kimberley Art Awards, Kununurra

1999 Karen Brown Gallery, Darwin

1999 Chamber of Commerce, Wuerzburg, Germany.

1999 Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne

1998 Span Gallery, Melbourne

1995 Savode Gallery, Brisbane

1994 National Aboriginal Art Award, Australian Heritage Commission

1994 Maintaining Family Tradition, International Year of the Family Conference, Adelaide Festival Centre

AWARDS

2017 Cossack Art Awards 2017 Highly Commended for Kangaroo Rock painting

2008 Special commendation, 3D Artworks, 25th Telstra NATSIAA

2008 Winner, Needham Religious Art Prize, Riddoch Art Gallert, Mt Galmbier, SA

2007 Winner, Blake Prize for Religious Art, Sydney, NSW

1999 Special Commendation: East Kimberley Art Awards

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

2011 Who's Who of Australian Women carries the theme "Reflections on Happiness"

1999 Ngalangangpum Jarrakpu Purrum: Mother and Child, Margaret Stewart, Magabala Books, Broome, WA