



Short St. Gallery

Ian Healy

Born 1974
Language Group Worrora
Region Worrora/Derby



Biography

Ian was born in Derby in 1974. He grew up in Mowanjumb, and was three years old when they moved from the old Mowanjumb site to where the community stands today. He went to school in Queensland, but then came home to Derby to see family and stayed in the Kimberley ever since. Ian learnt to carve pearl shells about 20 years ago from Peter Oroll who worked at the art centre and organised Mowanjumb Festival every year. While he paints and makes prints as well, he prefers pearl shell carving to other media.

Polishing pearl shells is a Worrora tradition, and the shells would be worn around the waist by men. However, the way Ian carves them is a new technique and art form, although he draws on old stories told to him by his grandmother for inspiration when making a new shell.

Group Exhibitions

2017 Paintings & prints Derby Christmas Markets
2017 Prints Port Hedland Court house & Markets
2017 Paintings Tarnanthi Art Fair (Adelaide, South Australia)
2017 Emerging Aboriginal Western Australian Artists (Fremantle Gallery - Perth)
Revealed
2010 Mowanjumb Artists; New works in ochre, Japingka Gallery

Solo Exhibitions

2009 Gallery Central, Perth : Pearl shell carvings Revealed, Emerging Aboriginal Western Australian Artists