



Short St. Gallery



BEERBEE MUNGNARI

Born c1933 - 2013
Language Group Gija/Naringman
Region Kimberley

BIOGRAPHY

Beerbee Mungnari was born at Waterloo Station, Northern Territory in 1933. His parents 'belong to Rosewood' and this is where he was brought up on a diet, he recalls, of 'kangaroo soup and goats milk'. He has lived and worked most of his life as a stockman, working on various stations in the East Kimberley region.

He grew up at Rosewood Station, then managed by Jack Kilfoyle, and went to work at 16 years of age, on Texas Downs Station. The move to Texas was prompted by a close friendship between the then station manager, Jimmy Cline, and Mungnari's father. Cline had been head stockman for Kilfoyle and had recently moved to manage Texas Downs Station. The workers would often spend evenings carving boab nuts with a sharp piece of wire or blade. They would carve turkeys, emus, snakes and crocodiles on the nuts.

Mungnari has many stories of the country south and east of Kununurra before Argyle Dam was built. He often recalls how up to 700 cattle were driven by six men, a camp cook and one 'off-sider' from the stations through to the cattle port of Wyndham. These trips would take 12 nights. Many of these cattle drives form the basis for Mungnari's paintings. Late Warmun artists Hector Jandany and Jack Britten often worked alongside Mungnari.

Mungnari started to paint in 1982, the same year that the school at Warmun started.

Mungnari spent a lot of time painting the early stories to teach students at the new Ngalanganpum School. His early works now form part of the Warmun Community Collection. Mungnari used to watch old Jack Britten paint and started to experiment with ochre himself and learn techniques from some of the early Warmun painters. His interest and love of the country was and still is the major influence for his landscapes.

Three of Mungnari's daughters are artists (Denise, Joanne and Marika Mung) and are



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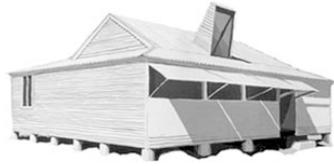
showing the same talent that makes Mungnari one of Warmun's most respected artists. His style and method are unique and highly recognisable amongst the work of other Warmun artists.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2004 Alison Kelly Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

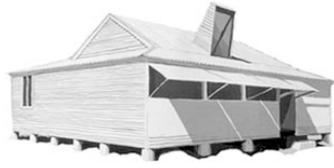
- 2010 Ochres of the Kimberley, Tunbridge Gallery, Margaret River, WA
- 2010 Kimberley Aboriginal artists, Cross Cultural Art Exchange, Darwin NT
- 2010 Warmun – Our Earth Our Story, Art Images Gallery, Norwood, SA
- 2010 Beerbee Mungnari & Churchill Cann, Seva Fegos Gallery, Perth
- 2009 'The Youngest One', Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT
- 2009 First and second generation artists from Waringarri & Warmun, Seva Fegos Gallery
- 2009 Ochre: A Study in Materiality, Short St Gallery Broome WA
- 2008 'Warmun at Ten: A Decade of Warmun Art', Hogarth Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2008 'New Voices in Gija Art', Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, Vic
- 2008 'Mungowum Ngarraknaari Yaaron (Strong Stories, Strong Culture)', Short St. Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2007 'Dog Dreamings', Seva Frangos Art, Perth, WA
- 2006 'Gentlemen of Warmun', Seva Frangos Art, Perth, WA
- 2006 'Bungle Bungles', Short St. Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2006 'Warmun Art Centre Presents', Mary Place Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2005 'Waterhole Country', Short St. Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2005 'Affordable Art Show', Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne, Vic
- 2005 'Warmun Group show', Framed Gallery, Darwin, NT
- 2005 'London Affordable Art Show', Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne, Vic
- 2004 'Tibet meets Warmun', Fremantle Arts Centre, Fremantle, WA
- 2004 'Big Country Show', Gallery Gondwana, Alice Springs, NT
- 2003 'Three Old Men', Seva Frangos Associates, Span Gallery, Melbourne, Vic
- 2002 'Warmun Country', Flinders University Art Museum, Adelaide, SA
- 2002 'New Works from Warmun', Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, Vic
- 2002 'Recent Works from Warmun', Framed Gallery, Darwin, NT
- 2002 'Munumburra: Wise Men of Warmun', Artplace, Perth, WA
- 2001 'Ochre Show', Short St. Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2001 'Short on Size', Short St. Gallery, Broome, WA



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COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Victoria
City of Wanneroo Collection
Kind Edward Memorial Hospital Collection
Private collections
Kerry Stokes Collection



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