



Short St. Gallery

JACK BRITTEN



Born	c 1921 - 2002
Language Group	Gija
Region	East Kimberley

BIOGRAPHY

Jack Britten was born at Tickelara in the east Kimberley in 1921. He was a senior Gija lawman. As a boy he was taken to work as a stockman and later as a road worker. In 1982 he moved to Frog Hollow, south of Warmun Community, to help establish the Wurreranginy Outstation, also known as Frog Hollow. Jack's painting focused on his country, its origins, its ceremonies and ancestral figures. Britten began painting early in life. His grandparents taught him to paint using traditional methods and materials. Distinctive features of his earlier paintings include the use of garliwan (bloodwood gum), spinifex sap and kangaroo blood as binders for ochres. Britten depicted his Dreamings with a lateral landscape perspective and gentle clusters of dome-shaped ranges representing Pumululu. He was known for his exploration of the landscape with rough textures and bold designs. The distinctive designs, which outlines and is embodied in the landscape forms, describes the country and evokes the presence of ancestors and ceremonies. Britten passed away in 2002.

EXHIBITIONS

2002 Framed Gallery, Darwin, NT - '

2002 Easter Show', Bett Gallery, Hobart, Tas -

2002 'Munumburra: Old men of Warmun', Artplace, Perth, WA -

2002 Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, Vic -



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2002 'Hector Jandany & Jack Britten', Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Vic –

2002 'Warmun Group Show', Flinders University Art Museum, Adelaide, SA –

2002 Thornquest Gallery, Gold Coast, Qld -

2001 'Beyond Wings', Flinders University Art Museum, Adelaide, SA -

2001 'Ochres', Short St. Gallery, Broome, WA -

1999 'Images in Ochre', Coeee Gallery, Sydney, NSW -

1998 'A Thousand Journeys' travelling exhibition, 1998-99 -

1997 'Creating Australia: 200 years of Art 1788-1988', touring show for the International Cultural Cooperation of Australia. -

1997 'Imaging the Land', National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Vic -

1996 'The Thirteenth National Aboriginal Art Award Exhibition', Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, NT - '

1994 Australian Heritage Commission National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award Exhibition', Old Parliament House, Canberra, ACT -

1994 'Power of the Land: Masterpieces of Aboriginal Art', National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Vic -

1993 'Images of Power: Aboriginal Art of the Kimberley', National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Vic -

1992 'Crossroads: Towards a New Reality - Aboriginal Art from Australia', National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto & Tokyo, Japan - '

1992 'The Ninth National Aboriginal Art Award Exhibition', Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, NT -

1992 Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, Vic –

1992 Broome Fringe Festival, Broome, WA –

1991 Lindsay Street Gallery, Darwin, NT –



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1992 Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, NSW -

1991 VM Gallery, Miami, Florida, USA -

'1991 The Eighth National Aboriginal Art Award Exhibition', Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin -

1990 'The Seventh National Aboriginal Art Award Exhibition', Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, NT -

1990 Dreamtime Gallery, Perth, WA -

1990 'Balance 1990', Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Qld -

1990 Adelaide Biennial, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA -

1989 'Turkey Creek Recent Works', Deutscher Brunswick Street Gallery, Melbourne, Vic -

1988 'Recent Aboriginal Paintings', Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA -

1988 Innovative Aboriginal Art of WA', University of WA, Perth, WA -

1988 Aboriginal Artists' Gallery, Sydney, NSW - 'Art of the East Kimberley', Birrukmarri Gallery, Perth, WA -

1988 Aboriginal Arts Australia, Sydney, NSW -

1988 Aboriginal Art from the East Kimberley', New South Wales Craft Council Gallery, Sydney, NSW -

1988 'ANCAAA & Boomalli', Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Cooperative, Sydney, NSW -

1987 January 'Aboriginal Art from the Kimberley', Goolarabooloo Gallery, Broome, WA -

COLLECTIONS

ANTHROPOLOGICAL MUSEUM, UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, PERTH, WA

ART GALLERY OF NSW, SYDNEY, NSW



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ART GALLERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, ADELAIDE, SA

ART GALLERY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, PERTH, WA

ARTBANK

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL GALLERY, CANBERRA, ACT

BOOMALLI ABORIGINAL ART COOPERATIVE, SYDNEY, NSW

GIFU MUSEUM, SEKI CITY, GIFU PREFECTURE, JAPAN

HELEN READ COLLECTION, DARWIN, NT

KERRY STOKES COLLECTION, PERTH, WA

MUSEUM & ART GALLERY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY, DARWIN, NT

NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, VIC ROBERT HOLMES A COURT
COLLECTION, PERTH, WA THE KELTON FOUNDATION, SANTA MONICA, USA WIM
WENDERS COLLECTION, SYDNEY, NSW

PUBLICATIONS

1993 'Images of Power: Aboriginal Art of the Kimberley', Judith Ryan, National Gallery of
Victoria

AWARDS

2002 Pre selected for the Telstra Art Award, Darwin, NT
1992 Museum and Art Galleries Award, NT