

Short St. Gallery

Dion Beasley

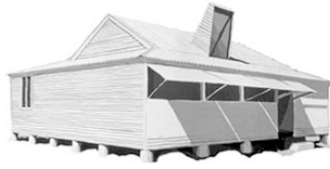


Born	1991
Language Group	Alywarr
Region	Barkly, NT

Biography

Born in Alice Springs in 1991, Dion Beasley is an Alywarr artist from the remote community of Owairtilla, also known as Canteen Creek. Dion spent many of his early years living in remote communities in the Barkly region of the Northern Territory before relocating to Tennant Creek. Dion has lived in Tennant Creek for the past fourteen years but continues to love visiting outlying communities where dogs play an integral part of community life. Being profoundly deaf Dion has experienced many challenges throughout his life but has developed a great passion for drawing, which has served as a means of communication with others. Possessing great observational skills and a wonderful memory, Dion confidently reproduces aerial drawings of the communities as well as images of the many dogs he has encountered over the years. Being an avid fan of Google Mapping, Dion has an enviable knowledge of the geographical features surrounding Tennant Creek.

Dion has used his remarkable drawing skills to communicate his daily experiences with others. Many hours of the day or night are spent by Dion drawing and redrawing his favourite dogs. Some of their exploits from many years ago are patiently recreated by Dion. All features of the dogs are accurately reproduced, and particular care taken with precise colourings. A motorized scooter provides Dion (who has Muscular dystrophy) with the independence to travel around Tennant Creek on his own. He delights in daily visits to a community where many of his much-loved dogs wait patiently for a titbit of meat. Many hours are spent sitting and watching the dogs and their interaction with one another, resulting in inspiration for further art pieces. Dion also spends time making 3D models of small community areas and hundreds of cut-out paper dogs. Dion loves swimming and travelling and has visited most capital cities in Australia. He has great plans for the future and would love to visit Africa to see all the exotic animals, which would provide great inspiration for his art work. Dion has a great sense of humour, is creative and ever curious about the world around him, dogs play an integral part of community life.



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Dion visits his Grandfather at 'Mulga Camp' on the edge of Tennant Creek most days and is fascinated by camp dogs that live in the community. He is a keen observer and a commentator on life at 'Mulga Camp'. The behaviour and social structure of the camp dogs are enormously entertaining to him and he draws them in a variety of moods and situations.

Dion's first exhibition titled, A Dog's Life, was held in the Darwin Entertainment Centre in 2008, as a set of ten screen-printed drawings. This exhibition has travelled through the eastern states of Australia. In 2012 two of Dion's prints were included in the Good, Strong, Powerful exhibition which toured nationally. Since this first exhibition Dion's art has expanded into different fields including etchings, photography and modeling. Dion's personal expression focuses on the camp dogs that are central to the life of Aboriginal communities. Dion's portraits of dogs are clever and captivating. While each has its own distinctive personality, together they form a chronicle of daily life on Aboriginal communities, with its own dramas, tensions and energies. With the assistance of carer Joie Boulter, Dion has worked with printmakers including Alan Murn in 2008, Leon Stainer, Jacqueline Gribbin and Kevin Banbury (through Northern Editions) in 2010, and Frank Gohier from Red Hand Prints in 2013. Dion has progressed from designs on T-shirts to silkscreen prints and etchings. With these developments comes a broader vision.