



Short St. Gallery



Sonia Kurarra

Born 1952
Language Group Walmajarri
Region Fitzroy / West Kimberley

Sonia Kurarra grew up in the river country at Yungngora (Nookanbah). She used to help the kindergarten teacher with teaching art. They used to take the children out to the Sandy Billabong and teach them how to paint and dance. There is a ngarrangkarni [Dreamtime] snake that lives in the billabong. His name is Nangurra.

Sonia began painting at Mangkaja in the early 1990's working mostly on paper. Since 2008, Sonia has been working predominately on canvas and her practice has become more consistent. She has exhibited in numerous group shows and had an overwhelming response to her first solo show in 2009.

Sonia paints the billabong country along the stretch of the Fitzroy River that runs directly behind the community. After the flood waters recede, there are billabongs that hold a plentiful supply of parika [barramundi], kurlumajarti [catfish], and bream. She paints gapi [fish], parmarr [rocks] where the fish is cooked, ngurti [coolamon] and a karli [boomerang].

Sonia paints these images over and over as though they are etched into her psyche; works that are linear representations in monotones and others that are layers lathered on with wild and confident brushstrokes. These contemporary compositions display her outstanding understanding of colour.

Themes

Fitzroy River and billanongs near Yungngora (Noonkanbah)
River behind Yungngora

Solo Exhibitions



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2016	SONIA Hanging Valley, QVC, Melbourne VIC
2016	Pinakarriluny Mamalunya Ngalimpakura Artists ReDot Gallery, Singapore
2014	Sonia Kurarra ReDot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore
2014	Sonia Kurarra Gabrielle Pizzi Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2013	Sonia Kurarra Aboriginal And Pacific Art, Sydney, NSW
2012/13	Sonia Kurarra FORM Gallery, Perth, WA
2012	Sonia Kurarra Gabrielle Pizzi Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2011	A Sonia Kurarra Exhibition, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2009	Sonia Kurarra, Randell Lane Fine Art, Perth, WA
2009	Sonia Kurarra, Gallery Gondwana, Sydney, NSW

Group Exhibitions

2018	Wynne Prize Finalist, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW
2017	Mangkaja Artist - Tanarnti, Art Gallery of South Australia, SA
2017	Mangkaja Waters, Short St Gallery, Broome WA
2016	PINAKARRILUNY MARNALUNYA NGALIMPAKURA ARTISTS JARLU PALU WANTINYA, ReDot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore
2016	Gimme Shelter - A Survey Show from the Artists of Fitzroy Valley, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2015	Bankwest Art Prize Perth, WA
2015	Taranthi 'Works of Significance' Tandanya, Adelaide, SA
2015	Salon de Refuse Darwin, NT
2014	Bankwest Art Prize Bank West Gallery, Perth, WA
2014	Country to Coast; Colours of the Kimberley, Aboriginal Art Museum - Utrecht. Curated by Georges Petitjean
2013	Austrian and Torres Strait Islander Award, MGNT, Darwin, NT
2012	Mangkaja Works on Paper, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2010	White, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2009	Sharing Difference on Common Ground, Holmes a Court Gallery, Perth, WA
2009	Shalom Gamarada, Caspary Conference Centre, University of NSW
2009	East Meets West, Gallery Gondwana, Sydney, NSW
2009	Senior Artists from Fitzroy Crossing, Suzanne O'Donnell Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
2009	Mangkaja Survey Show, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2009	Emerging And Re-emerging, Outstantion, Darwin, NT
2009	Margaret River meets Fitzroy Crossing, Tumbridge Gallery, Margaret River, WA
2008	Bendi Lango, Indigenous Scholarship Fund, Sydney & Fireworks Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
2008	Mangkaja Artists WA, Randell Lane Fine Art, Melbourne, VIC



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2008	Women on Country, Suzanne O'Donnell Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
2008	Divas of The Desert, Gallery Gondwana, Sydney, NSW
2008	Mamintu Mapamana, ReDot Gallery, Singapore
2008	Wet n' Wild, Artkeich, Freiburg, Germany
2007	Bendi Lango, the Indigenous Scholarship Fund, Sydney, NSW
2007	Women Artists of Fitzroy Crossing, Raft Artspace, Darwin, NT
2003	Water and Food, Cullity Gallery, University of WA

Collections

National Gallery of Victoria
The Art Gallery of WA
Art Gallery NSW
The Lepley Collection, Perth
Kerry Stokes
Holmes a Court Collection
Brocard - Estrangin Collection
The Art Gallery of NSW
The Lepley Collection
Geraldton Regional Art Gallery
Murdoch University Art Collection
Westfarmers Collection of Australian Art
Peter & Agnes Cooke Collection
Bertrand Estragin Collection

Awards

2016	Finalist - Port Headland Art awards
2015	Finalist - Bankwest Art Prize
2015	Overall Winner - Kimberley Art Prize
2012	Winner Most Outstanding Work - Hedland Art Award
2010	Winner of Best Indigenous work - WA Art Awards
2010	Finalist in the Western Australian Indigenous Art Award, Art Gallery of WA

Public Art

2010	Fitzroy Crossing Swimming Pool
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Publications

2017:	Arts Backbone, Vol 16 Issue 2 & Vol 17 Issue 1, August 2017
2014:	Arts Backbone, Vol 14 Issue 1, August 2014



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- 2012: Exhibition Catalogue Tandanya SA/ Mamkaja Arts Resource Agency,
Wirinyiya Ngarangngarag Birra Ngamoo Ngamoo
- 2009: Kimberley Aboriginal Artists, Sharing Difference on Common Ground
- 2003: Exhibition Catalogue, Cullity Gallery UWA Perth/ Mangkaja Arts
Resource Agency
Martuwarra and Jila, Jumu, Jiwari and Wirrkuja