



# Short St. Gallery



## Noli Rictor

**Born** 1969  
**Language Group** Pitjantjatjara  
**Region** The Pilbara

Noli Rictor may well be the youngest 'first contact' Aboriginal person in Australia. The year was 1986 and Noli was the youngest of three boys in the Rictor family when relatives, having previously seen signs that a group were in the remote area, contacted them, in the Great Victoria Desert of Western Australia. They were persuaded to come into the small settlement of Yakaduna to the south, where most of the Spinifex people now resided. This would be a monumental for Noli who twenty-one years was just old at the time and had survived as a traditional hunter - gatherer, in the desert with only his immediate family, as all other people had left 30 years prior with the British atomic testing taking place at Maralinga. Noli found immediate respect with the older men of the settlement for his vast knowledge of country and Law, and this has not changed as time has moved, with Noli still consulted on all things Spinifex.

His young life spent roaming the plains and sandhills is now seen as an invaluable education for the young generations of Spinifex children who have adjusted to sedentary community life.

Noli began his painting career with a couple of works in 2004 at Kalka where he was residing. After his first few works he didn't pick up a brush again until 2016. Noli Rictor was the overall winner of the Telstra National Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander Art Award in 2024, one of the most prestigious art awards in Australia.



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## Group Exhibitions

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| 2025 | Rawa Tjungku - working together a long me, Red Dot Fine Art, Singapore.   |
| 2024 | Sovereigns of the Memory, Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery, Brussels  |
| 2024 | Pila: The Space Between the Dunes, Salon Art Projects, Darwin, NT   |
| 2024 | 41st Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Museum and Art Gallery of NT. Darwin. NT  |
| 2024 | We are Wati, Short Street Gallery with Studio 29, Cairns, QLD   |
| 2024 | Spinifex 2024 - Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA  |
| 2024 | Uwankara Utulu - All Together, D'Lan Contemporary New York, USA   |
| 2023 | Sun and Shadow Art of the Spinifex People, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle. WA  |
| 2023 | The Rictor Family - Last nomads of Australia, Aboriginal Signature, Estrangin Gallery, Brussels, Belgium  |
| 2023 | Sun and Shadow - Art of the Spinifex People, Raft Artspace, Alice Springs, NT   |
| 2023 | Voir l'Invisible, Museum d'Angoulême, in conjunction with Aboriginal Signature, Estrangin Gallery and supported by Australian Embassy in France, the French Embassy in Australia, Angoulême, France Living Water, Raft Artspace, Alice Springs, N. T. |
| 2022 | Spinifex Arts Project 25-year anniversary show, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria.   |
| 2021 | Spinifex Wati Tjuta, Aboriginal and Pacific Arts, Sydney  |
| 2020 | Spinifex Artists - On Our Country, Japingka Gallery Fremantle. W.A.   |
| 2019 | "Wati: Men from Spinifex" Aboriginal and Pacific Arts, Sydney, NSW.   |
| 2019 | Explosion, Aboriginal Signature - Estrangin Gallery, Brussels, Belgium  |
| 2019 | Revealed - New and Emerging WA Artists, Fremantle Art Centre, Fremantle, Western Australia  |

## Collections

Bob Kaplan and Margaret Levi Collection. USA  
Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of The University of Virginia, USA

## Bibliography

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|------|---|
| 2019 | Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery, 'Explosion', Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery, Bruxelles, June 2019 |
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## Awards



# Short St. Gallery

2024

Overall Winner 41st Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Museums and Art Galleries, Darwin, N.T