



Short St. Gallery

Peggy Madij Griffiths

Birth Year 1/07/1950
Language Group Miriwoong
Region Newry Station, N.T



Biography

Peggy Griffiths arts practice reflects her strong commitment to her Miriwoong culture. Her elegant imagery resonates with references to cultural performance of which she is a renowned dancer. The winding of waterways are the sinuous and graceful body movements of a dancer the outlining dotting reflects a performer's body painting. Her works document the traditional country of her mother and grandfather and her recent works capture the movement of wind through the spinifex country which for the artist is evidence that the spirit of culture is alive.

Born on Newry Station to Dinah Dingle and Frank Moore, Peggy lived and learned about her family and bush life. "I grew up on Newry Station and learnt my culture from the old people. I saw my old people being taken away from the camp with chains around their necks and I was hidden once when Welfare came so that they would not take me away. I learned to dance all the traditional dances and I have taught all my children and grandchildren these dances. I went to school at the Kimberley Research School and later at Beagle Bay Mission before I got married at 16 to my promised husband [Mr A. Griffiths.] We have been together ever since." Peggy began working with Waringari Aboriginal Arts in 1985, carving and painting boab nuts and boomerangs. She progressed to painting on canvas and working with limited edition

prints. She is the first indigenous artist to win the prestigious Fremantle Print Award. Committed to keeping the stories of her grandfather, Charlie Mailman, alive and maintaining her connection to culture Peggy often painted alongside her husband Mr A Griffiths, also a high respected elder and artist. They were key performers and teachers of traditional dance for their community. They have travelled widely, performing at arts festivals and events. Peggy is a highly respected senior artist at Waringari Aboriginal Arts, teaching other artists as well as contributing to leadership of Waringari Aboriginal Arts in a Director role. Peggy has 5 children, 27 grandchildren and a growing number of grea grandchildren.

"What is important to me is to carry on my grandfather and my mother's stories. It is important to show my younger generation what I have learned about our stories and our culture. When I paint my mind has an idea and I do that to show people how I see things."



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Solo Exhibitions

- 2011 Peggy Griffiths. Seva Frangos Art, Perth WA
2008 West meets East - Peggy Griffiths. Seva Frangos Art, Perth WA
2005 Dreaming the Spinifex. Seva Frangos Art @ Span Galleries, Melbourne VIC

Group Exhibitions

- 2022 Garrbe Garrbe: Lets Go Collecting - Short St Gallery, Broome WA
2022 Telstra 2022 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, NT
2022 Country: from earth to sky, curated by Lisa Waup, Ceramics Triennial, Tangentyere Artists, Alice Springs NT
2021 Collective Ground, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth WA
2021 Carriers of Culture, Mossenson Galleries, Subiaco WA
2021 Berrdalngtha Woolrang – Strong Stories, Mossenson Galleries, Subiaco WA
2021 Alternative Archive - Legacy 11, John Curtin Gallery, Curtin University, Bentley WA
2021 Nyinalanginy / The Gathering, Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, Perth WA
2020 Piinpi, First Nations Fashion Design, National Museum of Australia, Canberra ACT
2020 John Stringer Prize, John Curtin Gallery, Curtin University, Bentley WA
2020 Piinpi, First Nations Fashion Design, Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo VIC
2019 The art of healing: Australian Indigenous traditional healing practice, The Berlin Museum of Medical History of the Charité
2019 TARNANTHI 2019, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide SA
2019 The art of healing: Australian Indigenous traditional healing practice, King's College, London
2019 Desert River Sea: Portraits of the Kimberley, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth WA
2019 Water Talk, Mossenson Galleries, Subiaco Perth WA
2018 Counter Forces: Fire and Water, Peggy and Jan Griffiths, The Cross Art Projects, Kings Cross, Sydney NSW
2018 The Australian Landscape, Biennale of Australian Art, Ballarat, VIC
2018 The Place Holds the Key: Female Artists from Waringari Arts, JGM ART Limited, London UK
2018 The Art of Healing: Australian Indigenous Bush Medicine, Medical History Museum, University of Melbourne, Melbourne VIC
2017 The Hadley Art Award, Hadley Orient Hotel, Hobart TAS
2017 irrb: Together, Peggy and Jan Griffiths, JamFactory, Tarnanthi Festival, Adelaide SA



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- 2016 2016 Community Invitation Art Award, City of Joondalup, Lakeside Shopping City, Joondalup WA
- 2016 Birrgamibging Mermdam - Things Made on Paper. Turnbridge Gallery, Perth WA
- 2016 Salon16, Charles Darwin University, Darwin NT
- 2015 Art Stage Singapore. Mossenson Galleries, Singapore
- 2014 Belle Arti Prize. Chapman and Bailey, Melbourne VIC
- 2014 In the Saddle, On the Wall. Australia-wide Travelling Exhibition of Kimberley Aboriginal Artists
- 2013 Traversing Borders - Art from the Kimberley. Queensland University of Technology Art Museum, Brisbane QLD
- 2013 The Calleen Art Award. Cowra Regional Art Gallery. NSW
- 2013 Our Living Land - An Exhibition of Leading Artists from the East Kimberley. OFOTO ANART Gallery, Shanghai China
- 2013 The 2013 Sulman Prize. Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney NSW
- 2012 Sharing Difference on Common Ground. Bunbury Regional Art Galleries, Bunbury
- 2012 Sharing Difference on Common Ground. Geraldton Regional Art Gallery, Geraldton
- 2012 Sharing Difference on Common Ground. The Cannery Arts Centre, Esperence
- 2011 Sharing Difference on Common Ground. Alcoa Mandurah Art Gallery, Mandurah
- 2010 Small Presents Big Presence - 8 Artists 100 Artworks. Seva Frangos Art, Perth WA
- 2010 Sharing Difference on Common Ground 2. CCAE, Darwin NT
- 2009 Sharing Difference on Common Ground. Holmes A Court Gallery, Perth WA
- 2009 Best of the Best. Framed Gallery, Darwin NT
- 2009 Alan & Peggy Griffiths. Short Street Gallery, Broome WA
- 2009 First and Second Generation Artists from Waringarri Aboriginal Arts and Warmun Art Centre. Seva Frangos Art, Perth WA
- 2008 Celebration. Seva Frangos Art, Perth WA
- 2008 Kimberley Ink and Ochre. Wollongong University, NSW
- 2008 Kimberley Ink. Northern Editions, Darwin NT
- 2006 Belonging, Dancing, Walking. Seva Frangos Art @ Span Galleries, Melbourne VIC
- 2005 Joondalup Invitation Art Award 2015. City of Joondalup, WA
- 2005 When Waringarri Came to Town. Woolloongabba Art Gallery, Brisbane QLD
- 2004 Waringarri 3 Women. Framed Gallery, Darwin NT
- 2004 Kimberley Focus - Alan and Peggy Griffiths Perth International Arts Festival Perth WA



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2003	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award. Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory, Darwin NT
2003	East Kimberley Art. Short St Gallery, Broome WA
2002	Warrgebarenkoo. Fremantle Arts Centre, Perth WA
2002	Love Your Work - 30 Year Exhibition. Fremantle Arts Centre, Perth WA
2002	Heyson Prize. Adelaide, SA
2002	Kimberley Ochre. Red Rock Art, Cullen Bay NT
2001	Groundwork. Fremantle Arts Centre, Perth WA
2000	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award. Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory, Darwin NT
1999	East Kimberley Art Award, Kununurra WA
1999	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award. Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory, Darwin NT
1997	East Kimberley Art Award, Kununurra WA
1995	Fremantle Print Award Perth WA

Collections

ARTBANK AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIAN EQUITY - KERRY STOKES COLLECTION
ART GALLERY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, PERTH WA
AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES,
CANBERRA ACT
BENDIGO ART GALLERY VIC
CHURCH GALLERY ART ANGELS
CITY OF SOUTH PERTH COLLECTION WA
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY
FREMANTLE ARTS COLLECTION
GALLERY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
HOLMES A COURT COLLECTION PERTH WA
KIMBERLEY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION COLLECTION
KLUGE RUHE ABORIGINALART COLLECTION VIRGINIA USA
NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA
OCHRE HEALTH CENTRE - BUSH MEDECINE WALL PARLIAMENT HOUSE COLLECTION
CANBERRA ACT PARLIAMENT HOUSE COLLECTION
PERTH WA ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL COLLECTION
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY COLLECTION SYDNEY NSW
UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG COLLECTION
WESFARMERS COLLECTION