



Short St. Gallery

Gordon Barunga

Born 1961
Language Group Worrorra
Region Fitzroy / West Kimberley



Biography

Gordon Barunga was born in Derby in 1961 and grew up at Mowanjum Community. He is the youngest son of well-known Kimberley leader Albert Barunga [dec] and painter Pudja Barunga [dec].

Gordon has worked at a number of Kimberley stations, including Pantijan, and Christmas Creek, and worked at One Arm Point, before starting to paint. Gordon's mother was from the Wunumbul people, and he was very close to her, being the youngest boy. His father passed away when he was young, so Pudja raised him.

His strong connection to his parent's countries is reflected in his painting. He paints the sites he visited as a child, and the stories he was told as a young boy. He loves to paint Pantijan country, as he lived there for some-time and it was special to his mother.

Gordon remembers the old people painting on boards and bark and telling the children all of the Wandjina stories. This was very important as the Wororra had been moved off their traditional lands to Mowanjum in the 1950s.

Gordon Barunga paints in natural ochre's at his art centre in Mowanjum. His work is typified by fine brushstrokes, indicating the rain falling as a result of the power of the Wandjinas. His work is both sensitive and strong, reflecting the beliefs inherited from his family.

Gordon paints both traditional Wandjina images and scenes of the Pantijan country in the style of Albert Namatjira and the Hermannsburg school of realistic watercolour landscapes. His work captures the austerity of the Wandjina figures in a way that closely depicts the actual Kimberley cave paintings and shows his love of his country and all that lives in it.

Group Exhibitions

2018	Desert River Sea, AGWA. Perth
2017	Prints Court House Gallery Town of Port Hedland WA
2016	Desert River Sea: Portraits of the Kimberley Waringarri Aboriginal Arts Centre Kununurra WA



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2014	People of the Wandjina Library Foyer Gallery Notre Dame University Broome WA
2014	In the Saddle - On the Wall Library Foyer Gallery Notre Dame University Broome WA and toured
2013	Traversing Borders: Art from the Kimberley Queensland University of Technology Art Museum Brisbane QLD
2010	Mowanjurn Artists: new works in ochre Japingka Gallery Fremantle WA
2009	Sharing Difference on Common Ground Holmes a Court Gallery Perth WA
2008	Cultural Connections, Artitja Fine Art Gallery South Fremantle WA
2008	Wandjina Budda Budding Broome 6 Gallery WA
2007	Mowanjurn Artists The Dreaming: Australias International Indigenous Festival Woodford QLD
2007	Arralululai, Broome 6 Gallery WA
2006	Power of the Wandjina Governor Stirling Tower Perth WA
2005	Wandjina Art, Broome 6 Gallery WA
2005	Keeping the Wandjina Fresh: Exhibition and Book Launch Alexander Library Building Perth WA
2002	Visions from the Cave, Sun Picture Theatre Broome WA
2000	Spirit of the Wandjina, Compass Travel, Postonja Slovenia

Collections

Keystart Subiaco WA
National Gallery of Victoria Melbourne VIC
Parliament House Perth WA
The Wesfarmers Collection Perth WA

Commissions

2000 Sydney Olympics Opening Ceremony - large scale sculpture

Bibliography

2015 Short Film 'I am an Artist: Gordon Barunga'
2014 ABC Open West Kimberley ' Gordon Barunga – Scrub Bull'