



# Short St. Gallery

Stewart Karmburmar Hoosan



Birth Year                    1951  
Language Group        Jungkayi  
Region                      Wollogorang, QLD

## Biography

Stewart Hoosan was born at Doomagee Station in Queensland in 1951, the son of Thelma Dixon and Alec Hoosan. He is a Garwa man on his mother's side and Gangalida from his fathers' side. His name is Wurrbiyanguna and his skin is Buralangi. Stewart's grandfather, Joe Hoosan is described by Thelma as a 'proper middle eastern man', an Afghan cameleer originally from the central desert. He married Topsy a Gangalida women from Bourketown. Their son Alec Hoosan had three children, Stewart, his sister and Reggie. It was Stewart's grandfather Yari Yari who grew Stewart up at Calvert Hill Station. His grandfather told him stories about country and took him through the country. Stewart recalls watching him paint on the cave walls. It was this old man that caused Stewart to begin to think about his country and his connection to the land and to paint strong country paintings.

Stewart grew to a young man at Calvert Hill Station and Robinson River Station where his mother worked. From the age of 9, Stewart was taken away to work for a white man called Walter Camp. They put me on a donkey first to learn how to ride and later I started bullock and horse droving. Stewart would spend a month way at time horse tailoring and or as a night watchman for the cattle in the stock camps. Walter Camp owned the stations Calvert and Robinson River then but not today. "We got Robinson River back ... land that came back".

Stewart spent time droving through Queensland and through his grandmother country China Wall with Walter till he was 21. At times he said he wanted to be in the Territory "I'd try and sneak back but they would track me up" ... Walter had bought Florville station and they had to shift the cattle there. Stewart drove those cattle for about five or six trips ... horse and cattle up and down.

When Stewart turned 21, he went to look for his mother. She had left Robinson River with Don Dixon and was now in Derby, Western Australia. Stewart travelled to Derby and spent a



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year there again working as a stockman for Jack Camp, Walter's brother. Stewart and his mother returned to Robertson River country to Wadawadla (black fellow crossing) and Wandangula (police lagoon) at Sandridge and lived with his wife Nancy McDinny, Nancy's mother and father, the late Dinny Mc Dinny. "I have a small station with cattle and horses still here now... and a lemon tree".

Stewart grew up in a place described by historians as isolated and interesting ... the last wild frontier. All through these times, Nancy claims the old people didn't know what to do they were just moved around.

The oral histories, the songs recorded, the newspaper articles, books published and research have supported the testament of artists like Stewart, who tell of the resistance to settlers and the strong continuing traditions of law and culture.

Stewart Hoosan is Jungkayi for the Robinson Wollogorang country. The country of his mother, grandmother and grandfather. He paints the big country belonging to the Kunindirri- Garwa people. Warkurra Yarji Kurrwany Baki Kunundirinya. Respect for this country, memories of his experiences and the love for country are the primary source and foundation for Stewart's art. The depiction of place, the vitality of colour and the abundance of life in his landscapes represent the law and culture. They sing this land. Dulkurrina Likajarrayinda Wangkulali Mijawaru Jilayi Mambalyi Wadaliya and Mindibirna are part of his country and dreaming.

## Solo Exhibitions

2025 Ringer From The North, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA  
2025 Jilalyi, Karwar Darbarwarr – Karen Brown Fine Art, Darwin NT Australia  
2022 Mitjiwaru – Karen Brown Fine Art, Darwin NT Australia  
2022 Nguburngur – Boomerang – Karen Brown Fine Art, Darwin NT Australia  
2010 Singapore High Commission - Karen Brown Fine Art Darwin/Nanda Hobbs, NSW  
2006 Stewart Hoosan - Gallery Gabriel Pizzi, Melbourne VIC Australia  
2005 Karen Brown Fine Art, Darwin NT Australia

## Group Exhibitions

2002 Dinny McDinny and Artists from Borroloola, Karen Brown Gallery, Darwin  
2002 melbourne Art Fair  
2003 Finalist Telstra NATSIAA, Magnt Darwin  
2004 Finalist Telstra NATSIAA, Magnt Darwin  
2005 karen Brown Gallery Darwin NT Australia  
2006 Making Contact and Wild Times Mosseson Galleries Melbourne VIC Australia  
2006 melbourne Art Fair  
2006 Finalist Telstra NATSIAA, Magnt Darwin  
2006 Stewart Hoosan Gallery Gabriel Pizzi Melbourne VIC Australia



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2007 Finalist Telstra NATSIAA, Magnt Darwin  
2008 Melbourne Art Fair  
2008 Art of the Barkly, Karen Brown Gallery, Darwin  
2010 Singapore High Commission Nanda Hobbs Sydney NSW Australia  
2011 Borroloola Prints and Paintings from the Gulf Of Carpentaria Rebecca Hossack London U.K.  
2014 Flow of Voices II The Cross Arts Project Sydney NSW Australia  
2016 Flow of Voices 3 The Cross Arts Project Sydney NSW Australia  
2016 Gulf Country New screen prints from Waralungku Arts Nomad Art .Parap N.T.  
2020 Seven Rivers, Karen Brown Fine Arts. Darwin NT  
2024 Looking into 2025 - Karen Brown Fine Art, Darwin NT Australia  
2024 Manankurra Strong Country - Karen Brown Fine Art, Darwin NT Australia  
2024 We Art Still Here - CIAF, Cairns QLD Australia  
Contemporary Australian Art, Wright exhibition Space, Seattle, USA

## Collections

AGNSW, NSW  
Artbank, NSW  
Queensland Art Gallery of Modern Art, QLD  
Kerry Stokes Collection, WA  
Kluge-Ruhe, USA  
Levi-Kaplan, USA  
Batchelor College Collection, NT  
Karen Brown Gallery, NT

Finalist Telstra NATSIAA, MAGNT Darwin in 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007 and 2023  
He has been exhibited in the Melbourne Art Fair in 2002, 2006 and 2008.