



Short St. Gallery

Desmond Woodforde

Born 1974
Region APY Lands

Desmond Woodforde is a multidisciplinary artist and truth-teller whose work spans painting, sculpture, printmaking, video, music, and spoken word. A founding member of the Mimili Maku Wati Group, Desmond's practice is grounded in cultural authority and political honesty – often poetic, always powerful.

His work is shaped by lived history and deep listening. Whether through hand-cut prints, video installation, or sandblasted starlight onto metal, Desmond creates evocative, emotionally charged narratives that speak across time – from the Ice Age to nuclear testing, from ancient cosmology to today's desert radio airwaves. His art carries the stories of his people across media and generations, honouring the land, the stars, and the legacy of resistance.

A finalist in the 2024 Fremantle Arts Centre Print Award, Desmond is also a longtime presenter with PY Media (Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Media) and is currently recording a new solo album. He plays an active cultural and political leadership role in Mimili's men's group and was a leading voice for the celebrated exhibition of experimental printmaking Kilipi Tjukurpa – Star Story at 8 Hele Gallery in Mpwartne (Alice Springs) in July 2025.

Desmond's video work Maralinga Story will be screened alongside the presentation of partner Harriette Bryant's practice at Sydney Contemporary 2025 – a shared act of memory, testimony, and future-making.

Group Exhibitions

2025 Kilipi Tjukurpa – Star Story, 8 Hele Gallery, Mpwartne
2024 kinara kutju, kilipi tjuta, Maitland Regional Art Gallery, Maitland
2024 wankaringanyi – waking up, APY Gallery, Sydney
2024 Desertmob, Araluen Arts Centre, Mpwartne

Awards

2025 Finalist, Fremantle Arts Centre Print Award