

Short St. Gallery



Judy Mengil

Born	1954
Region	Kununurra, East Kimberley
Language	Miriwoong Gadjerong

Rich in painterly colour, Judy Mengil's arts practice alludes to the explanations of natural phenomena, the presence of Dreamings and the creation of geological landforms. The Dreamtime narrative brings to life the creative energies that have shaped the artist's Country and reiterates for her the existence of a living spiritual presence.

Judy's images are often dominated by bold colour, strong forms and the vastness of her Kimberley landscape. These themes are balanced with intricate details suggesting moving water, the delicacy of lush and shady waterholes and freshwater springs surrounded by waterlily.

Born on Newry Station, Judy grew up learning about station life and mostly worked in the station house kitchen. After Newry Station, her mother and stepfather moved to Carlton Hill Station where her mother worked in the kitchen. Judy watched all the older women working as cooks and making breads. She also lived at Ivanhoe and Argyle Stations. In 1965 her mother died and the Department of Welfare shifted Judy and her sister to Beagle Bay Mission. She returned from the mission in 1971 and settled in Kununurra.

Judy had four children and seven grandchildren. She started painting in the mid 1990's although only since 2002, did she make a serious commitment to becoming a "real" artist. Judy painted her mother's Country around Binjin (Bucket Springs) now in the Keep River National Park where she spends much of her time. She also painted the country of Mulligan near Bullo River Station which is her father's Country. Painting these places was her commitment to keeping alive the stories she learnt. Understanding country and her family relationship to that country was important knowledge that she passed onto her children and grandchildren. Judy passed away in 2016.



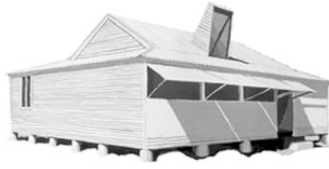
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Solo Exhibitions

- 2015 Binjin, The Gallery Shop, Potts Point, Sydney NSW
2005 "Baliboong Nhal Nhal" Seva Frangos Art @ Span Galleries Melbourne VIC

Group Exhibitions

- 2022 Open Borders - a Creative Grid exhibition series, Dawang Gallery, Waringarri Aboriginal Arts, Kununurra WA
2019 The art of healing: Australian Indigenous traditional healing practice, The Berlin Museum of Medical History of the Charité
2019 In Ochre, Artitja Fine Art, Fremantle WA 2019 The Alternative Archive, curated by Dora Griffiths, Dawang Gallery, Waringarri Aboriginal Arts, Kununurra WA
2019 The art of healing: Australian Indigenous traditional healing practice, King's College, London
2019 Our Country Our Land, Perth Council Offices, City of Perth and Artitja Fine Art, Perth WA
2018 The Art of Healing: Australian Indigenous Bush Medicine, Medical History Museum, University of Melbourne, Melbourne VIC
2015 Waringarri, Judy Mengil, Mary Punchi and Mary Teresa Tailor, Paul Johnstone Gallery, Darwin N.T
2014 Belle Arti Prize, Chapman and Bailey, Abbotsford, VIC
2014 Gerloong, Mossenson Galleries, Perth WA
2014 Port Hedland Art Awards 2014, Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland, WA
2013 Traversing Borders. Art from the Kimberley, Queensland University of Technology Art Museum, Brisbane QLD
2013 "Our Living Land" An Exhibition of Leading Artists from the East Kimberley, OFOTO ANART Gallery, Shanghai, China
2013 "Our Living Land" An Exhibition of Leading Artists from the East Kimberley, Salvo Hotel, Shanghai, China
2013 "Waringarri Artists: Raison d'être" Galerie Karin Carton, Versailles France
2013 The 2013 Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of NSW
2011 Arts d'Australie, Stéphane Jacob, Neuilly sur Seine, France
2010 "Northern Impressions" Northern Editions and Artback NT Touring Exhibition
2010 "Sharing Difference on Common Ground 2" CCAE Darwin NT
2010 Parcours Nomad's en Australie, Arts d'Australie, Stéphane Jacob, Paris, France
2010 "Living Country - Judy Mengil, Phyllis Ningarmara & Bessie Marlarvie" Tunbridge Gallery Margaret River WA
2009 Art Aborigène, Arts d'Australie, Stéphane Jacob & Sidelsky, Paris, France
2009 "Best of the Best" Framed Gallery Darwin NT
2009 "Celebrating Country: Kinship & Culture" Seymour College Osmond SA



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2009	"Narrageng, Galiny, Gagay - Mother Daughter Granddaughter" Gecko Gallery Broome WA
2008	"Kimberley Ink" Northern Editions Darwin NT
2008	"Three Women - One Country" Gecko Gallery Broome WA
2008	"Crossing Country" Alison Kelly Gallery Melbourne VIC
2008	Parcours des Mondes, Arts d'Australie, Stéphane Jacob, Paris, France
2008	"Earth Colours Recaptured!" Booker Lowe Gallery Houston Texas USA
2008	"Kimberley Ink & Ochre" Wollongong University NSW
2007	"Beyond the Canvas" AP Bond Art Dealer Adelaide SA
2007	"Red Hot Ochre" Kluge Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection Virginia US
2005	"My Mothers Country" Indigenart Melbourne VIC
2005	"Billabongs and Sugarbags - Judy Mengil and Minnie Lumai" Gallery Philip Neville Darwin NT
2005	"Big Country" Gallery Gondwana Alice Springs NT
2004	"Waringarri Artists" Indigenart Perth WA
2004	Introducing Waringarri Artists Seva Frangos Art @ Span Galleries Melbourne VIC
2004	"Praprika Coloured Country" Framed Gallery Darwin NT
2004	"Waringarri - Three Women" Framed Gallery Darwin NT
2003	20th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award Darwin NT
2003	"East Kimberley Show" Short St Gallery Broome WA
2002	"Warrgebarrenkoo" Fremantle Arts Centre Perth WA
2002	"Heyson Prize" Adelaide SA

Collections

ARTBACK COLLECTION

EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY COLLECTION

HOLMES A COURT COLLECTION MUSEE DE CONFLUENCES COLLECTION LYON

FRANCE NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA WESFARMERS COLLECTION

WOLLONGONG UNIVERSITY COLLECTION ZHONGFU GROUP COLLECTION

Bibliography

2013	"Our Living Land" Exhibition Catalogue
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