



Short St. Gallery

Richard Nelson

Born	1978
Language	Pitjantjatjara
Region	APY Lands

Biography

Richard Nelson is a Pitjantjatjara artist, gardener and senior arts worker living and working in Mimili Community on the APY Lands. Born in Perth in 1978, Richard has family connections to Mparntwe and Kurdnatta and has lived in Mimili for more than twenty years. He is a deeply committed member of Mimili Maku Arts, where his quiet leadership, reliability and cultural knowledge contribute to the everyday strength of the studio.

Richard's paintings and prints celebrate family places near Parawalpi (Victory Well) and Sandy Bore. His works recall camping trips, running water, rockholes, shared meals and the experience of spending time together on Country. Rather than separating art from daily life, Richard's practice grows from looking after family, community and the land. His work as the art centre's gardener is another expression of this care, creating and maintaining a welcoming place for artists. Richard is also a key member of the Mimili Maku Wati Group, a growing movement of men working collectively across printmaking, painting, sculpture and found materials. Richard first exhibited at Desertmob in 2024 and has since presented work in exhibitions across Australia. In 2025 he was selected as a finalist in the Fremantle Arts Centre Print Award, and his work is held in the Australian National University Collection.

Group Exhibitions

2026 Mimili Maku, 8 Hele Gallery, Mpwartne
2026 Desertmob, Araluen Arts Centre, Mpwartne
2025 Kililpi Tjuta – Star Story, 8 Hele Gallery, Mpwartne
2024 Tjintu Kutju Kililpi Tjuta, Maitland Regional Gallery, Maitland
2024 Wankaringanyi – Waking Up, APY Gallery, Sydney
2024 Desertmob, Araluen Arts Centre, Mpwartne

Awards

2025 Finalist, 47th Fremantle Arts Centre Print Award, Fremantle

Collections

ANU University Collection