



Short St. Gallery



Keith Stevens

Born	c.1940
Language Group	Pitjantjatjara
Region	APY Lands

Keith Stevens is a senior Pitjantjatjara man born in the far north of South Australia at Granite Downs where his parents were working in the 1940's. Following in his parent's footsteps, he was mustering at an early age and had no schooling until moving to Pukatja (Ernabella) as a young boy where he attended the mission school. Keith's family would travel for weekends to their traditional homelands of Piltati and Iwarrawarra. Keith's father eventually sat down with his family close to Piltati creek at what is now Nyapari Community. Keith is a respected senior man in traditional law and a strong community leader.

"Today Keith is a man of both worlds. A highly respected traditional law man and a skilled painter of the tjukurpa in the modern medium of acrylics. His careful application of thick rich colour in intricate patterning creates a three-dimensional moulded topography of the Piltati plateau and gully. Colour floods the landforms with the static tension of the Tjukurpa creation energy metamorphosed into rocky and sandy creek bed. Finely drawn ancient motifs float on the painted ground. Traces of ancestral camps, footprints, spears and digging sticks. Energetic marks of the Tjukurpa recoding the story of creation." Diana James

Keith's highly distinctive red textured fields of colour evoke an ancient landscape, the country of the Tjukurpa. His intimate knowledge of his country is referenced in his works with important landmarks depicted across his canvases. These are dynamic works that have a magical quality which sing out and touch the viewer.

Keith comes from an artistic family, his mother Eileen Yaritja Stevens (dec) and his uncles Tiger Palpatja and Ginger Wikilyiri are well-known for their depictions of Piltati the ancestral story for Nyapari. Keith also paints the Tjukurpa of his traditional land Piltati.

'Nyapari ngura ka Piltati ngura. Minyama kutjara nyinanyi waruangka. Kangkuru ini Wanyinta ka malanyapa ini Alartjatjarra. Tjana Maliluku untalpa. Wati kutjara nyangatja, tjukupu minymaku ngura minyma kutjara, minyma tjukurpa unngu. Tjana mukaringkula kilinangkupai maiku kukaka mukuringkula. Palumpa ngura ngara palulanguru tjana ankupai maiku kukaka mantjintjikitatja.



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Tjana wana katipai munu wira tjawantjakitjaku munu tjana katipai waru tjangi. Painta nyangatja Piltatiku tjukurpa. This is country for Nyapari and Piltati. The two women from Piltati are sitting by their fire. The elder sister is Wanyinta and the younger one is Alartjatjarra, these are Malilu's daughters. This is Piltati. There are two men here and two women. The story is underground. If people want meat or bush tucker they go to this place and clean around and talk to the area. From here those two women would go out and collect their food. They would carry a digging stick and collecting bowl and also a fire stick. This is the Piltati story' Keith is receiving high acclaim for his works and is represented in major private and public collections including the collection of the National Gallery of Victoria.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2011 Tjungu Palya 2011, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2010 'Keith Stevens Solo', Short St Gallery, Broome, WA

Group Exhibitions

- 2020 Tjurkupa Mulapa – This is a true story : Short St Gallery, Broome
2018 Tjungungku Tjukurpa Kunpu Rawangu Kanyinytjaku: Together We Are Protecting Our Stories, Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney
2017 PALYA: NYAPARI NOW, Short St Gallery, Broome WA
2017 Territoire Du Reve, The Pierre Arnaud Foundation, Switzerland
2017 TARNANTHI: Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art
2017 Ngayulu Mantangka Walkatjunanyi' Outstation Gallery Darwin.
2017 Walkatjunanyi Inmaku, Redot Gallery, Singapore.
2017 Bruxelles, Belgium, Group Exhibition Empreintes Etemelles at the Aboriginal Signature Estrangin gallery
2016 Nganampa Killipil: Our Stars, Sydney, NSW.
2016 Good Together, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2015 Desert Mob, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
2015 32nd Telstra NATSIAA, Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, NT
2014 Papa Ipi Tjurkapa' (Dog Dreaming) Short St Gallery, Broome WA
2014 Salon Des Refuse, Darwin, NT
2014 The Alice Prize, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT
2014 Tjukutjuku walka walka walka walka walka walka pulka tjurkurpa, Outstation, Darwin, NT
2013 APY Lands Survey Exhibition, Outstation Gallery, Darwin, NT
2013 Tjungu Palya, Marshall Arts, Adelaide, SA
2013 New Paintings Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT
2013 Desert Mob 2013 Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
2013 Tjintu Kutjupa Tjintu Kutupa - Desert Days, Reddot Gallery, Singapore



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- 2013 Shalom Gamarada Art fair Woollahra, Sydney, NSW
2013 Tjukurpa Wangka: Storytellers, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA.
2012 Tjungu Kutju-tu: Together as One, Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney
2012 Deadly- In Between Heaven and Hell, Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide, SA
2012 Tjungu Palya Tjukurpa' – Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT
2012 Uwankara kurunpa kutju-tjara - Our People, One Soul, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2012 Desert Mob 2012 Araluen Cultural Precinct, Alice Springs
2012 Tjungu Palya 2012, Outstation Gallery, Darwin, NT
2011 Watiku Tjukurpa Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne VIC
2011 Tjungu Palya Tjukurpa Aboriginal and Pacific Arts. Sydney, NSW
2011 Tjukurpa Manta Raft Artspace, Alice Springs, NT
2011 Living Water National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, VIC
2011 Tjungu Palya 2011', Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2011 Western APY Lands', ArtKelch, Freiburg, Germany
2011 Ngura Tjukuritja - A Dreaming Place', Marshall Arts, Adelaide, SA
2011 Tjungu Palya - Masterpieces', Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT
2010 Tjungu Palya Survey Exhibitions', Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2010 Etched in the Sun - Prints by Indigenous Australians' with Basil Hall Editions, Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, USA
2009 Survey of Prints', Nomad Gallery, Darwin, NT
2009 Etched in the Sun' with Basil Hall Editions and Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London, England
2009 Alwara-wara - Side by Side' Outstation Gallery, Darwin, NT
2009 Kulini Ngura - KNowing Country', Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2008 Desert Mob', Araluen, Alice Springs, NT
2008 South Australian Impressions', Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide, SA
2008 'wara Mantangka - Land Lines', Randell Lane Fine Art, Perth, WA
2008 Our Mob', Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide, SA
2007 Piltati', Marshall Arts, Adelaide, SA
2006 Tjukurpa Mantatja', Randell Lane Fine Art, Perth, WA
2006 Nganampa Tjukurpa Nganampa Ngura', Marshall Arts, Adelaide, SA
2005 New Works from the APY Lands', South Australia Museum, Adelaide, SA

Collections

Australian War Memorial
Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, VIC
Artbank, Australian Government National Contemporary Art Rental
Arthur Roe Collection, Melbourne, VIC



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W & W McGeoch Collection, Melbourne, VIC
The Lepley Collection, Perth, WA
The Collection of Berengere Primat, Geneva, Switzerland
The Kennedy Collection, Sydney, NSW

Bibliographies

- 2012 Cover of 'Articulate: Art Gallery of South Australia', Issue no.7 Winter 2012
2012 Nici Cumpston. 'New to the Collection' Articulate: Art Gallery of South Australia, Issue no.7 Winter 2012, pg32-33
2012 Croft, Brenda. 'Cultural Efflores(s)ence' Deadly: In Between Heaven and Hell catalogue, Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide 2012
2011 Browning, Daniel. 'Living Water' Awaye, Radio National. 4th June 2011. www.abc.net.au/awaye/stories/2011/3234872.htm
2010 James, Dianna, 'Colour comes up from the ground', Outstation catalogue, Darwin
2009 Imprint, Winter 2009, Cover image, Wati Ngintaka Munu Anamara 2008/9, multi plate etching
2009 Hall, Basil. 'Etched in the Sun' - Prints made by Indigenous artists with Basil Hall, Imprint, Winter 2009, Vol. 44, p. 24-25
2009 Cruthers, John. 'Tjukurpa Mantataja - Stories from the Land', Australian Aboriginal Art, Issue 1, March 2009

Awards

- 2015 Finalist 2015 Telstra National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Art Awards
2011 Finalist Togart Art Award