



Short St. Gallery



Derek Jungarrayi Thompson



Birth Year 1976
Birth Place Papunya
Language Group Pitjantjatjara
Region APY Lands

Biography

Derek Jungarrayi Thompson is the maternal grandson of Papunya Tula artist, Makinti Napanangka.

He came to work at Ernabella Arts in 2011 during the first men-only ceramic workshop. His figurative drawing work was already well advanced, and he explained that he draws 'all the time at home.'

Derek is also an avid hunter. The translation of his drawings of the Pukatja landscape and animal life onto ceramics is quite unique and received immediate interest from collectors and curators.

In 2012 Derek undertook a residency at the Ceramic Workshop of the Australian National University, where he did pottery and printmaking. For many years his collaborative works with fellow Ernabella artist Ngunyitjima Carroll were highly sought after and were selected as finalists in many awards including the NATSIAAs (National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards). Ngunyitjima threw tall pots onto which Derek applied his designs and drawings using the sgraffito technique.

Derek and Ernabella artist Tjimpuna Williams were awarded an Australia Council grant in 2013 to undertake a big pot workshop in Jingdezhen, China. This body of large-scale works was exhibited at Sabbia Gallery in Sydney and in Canberra as part of the Australian Ceramics Triennale. In 2017 Derek's work was exhibited at Harvey Arts in the USA.

Derek continues to be a key figure and leading artist in the ceramic's studio, using clay to create beautifully detailed renditions of Country.



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Group Exhibitions:

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| 2024 | Inuntji - Desert Flowers, Yaama Ganu Gallery, Moree, NSW |
| 2024 | Minymaku Tjukurpa Ernabella, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC |
| 2024 | Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT |
| 2023 | Nganampa Tjukurpa Ngampa Ara: Our Story Our Way, Sabbia Gallery, Sydney, NSW |
| 2023 | Ernabella Arts: Ceramic Warka Wiru 20 Years-kutu – 20 Years of Creating Ceramics, JamFactory Craft and Design Centre, Adelaide, SA |
| 2023 | Piryakatu - Springtime, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC |
| 2023 | Terra Nova - 70 Years of Sturt Pottery. Sturt Gallery, Mittagong, NSW |
| 2022 | Ernabella-ku Tjukurpa: Stories from Ernabella, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC |
| 2021 | Iriti-Ngura Nintini Kuwari-Kutu - Showing the Past in the Present, Praxis Artspace, Adelaide, SA |
| 2021 | Desert Creatures, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA |
| 2021 | Ernabella Arts Group Exhibition, Outstation, Darwin, NT |
| 2021 | Ananyu Nyurakutu – Going Home, Artitja Fine Art Gallery, South Fremantle, WA |
| 2020 | Tarnanthi Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art: Open Hands, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA |
| 2020 | Salon de Refuse, Charles Darwin University Gallery |
| 2020 | Nganampa Tjukurpa Ananyi Wilurara (Our Stories Going West), Short St Gallery, Broome, WA |
| 2020 | Manngu (nest), SDR Gallery at Paul Johnston Gallery, Darwin, NT |
| 2019 | Ernabella Arts: Small Ceramics, Aboriginal Contemporary, Sydney, NSW |
| 2019 | Stoneware from the Desert, Salon Project Space, Parap, NT |
| 2019 | Desert Mob 2019, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT |
| 2019 | Desert Colour featuring Ernabella ceramics, Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs, NT |
| 2019 | Uwankara Tjunga (all in), APY Collective Gallery, Adelaide, SA |
| 2019 | Anangu uwankara tjunguringkula pukulpa nyinama Anangu happily sitting and working together, Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA |
| 2018 | Sydney Contemporary – Sabbia Gallery at Carriageworks |
| 2018 | Weapons for the Soldier, Hazlehurst Regional Gallery |
| 2018 | WILD: Flora and fauna in Australian Art, Hawkesbury, Regional Gallery, NSW |
| 2018 | Something Blue, Sabbia Gallery, Paddington, NSW |
| 2017 | Nyuyuntjaku – Keeping the fire alive New paintings and ceramics by the artists of Ernabella Arts, Harvey Arts, USA |
| 2017 | In These Hands: Mara Nyangangka, Sturt Gallery, Mittagong, NSW |
| 2017 | Mark and Memory, TARNANTHI: Festival of contemporary of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide SA |
| 2017 | Little Creatures – Big Country, Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs, NT |



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- 2017 Clay Stories: Indigenous ceramics from remote Australia, Sabbia Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2016 Nganampa Kilipil: Our Stars, Hazlehurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre
- 2016 Inheritance, Salt Contemporary, Queenscliff, VIC
- 2016 Abundance – The Australian landscape in ceramics, Sabbia Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2015 Wati tjuta-ku Tjukurpa kunpu ngaranyi – All the men have strong stories, always there - raft Artspace, Alice Springs NT
- 2015 Kuruntu mukuringkula kulira palyantja (Stories straight from the heart) - Short Street Gallery, Broome
- 2015 Yangupala Tjuta Waakarinyi (Many Young People Working) - Sabbia Gallery, Paddington NSW
- 2014 Ngura Kutjupa, Tjukurpa Kutju (Different Country, Same Story) - ReDot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore
- 2014 Fragrant Lands – Exhibition of Chinese and Australian Indigenous Art - Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Centre, Shanghai China
- 2014 Tjulpirpa wiya - Clay! - raft Artspace, Alice Springs NT
- 2014 Fragrant Lands – Exhibition of Chinese and Australian Indigenous Art – Tandanya, Adelaide SA
- 2014 Right Now. In support of Artist Resale Royalty - Boomalli Gallery, Leichardt NSW
- 2014 Tjungu Warkarintja: Fifteen Years - Sabbia Gallery, Paddington NSW
- 2013 Sunshine Coast Art Prize 2013 - Noosa Regional Gallery, Sunshine Coast QLD
- 2013 Derek Thompson and Ngunyitjima Carroll - Nomad Gallery, Darwin NT
- 2013 Ernabella Men, New Ceramics - raft Artspace, Alice Springs NT
- 2013 Ochres and Barks: Contemporary Indigenous Art of the Land - Salt Contemporary Art, Queenscliff VIC
- 2013 Putitja: From the Bush - Strathnairn Arts, Canberra ACT
- 2013 42nd Muswellbrook Art Prize - Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre, Muswellbrook NSW
- 2013 Dickie Minyintiri, Pantjiti Lionel, Derek Thompson - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2013 2013 Desert Mob
- 2013 Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT
- 2013 Putitja: From Spinifex Country - Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2013 NATSIAAs - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin WA
- 2013 City of Hobart Art Prize - Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart TAS
- 2013 A Study of the Figurative in Desert Painting - Short St Gallery, Broome WA
- 2012 Desert Mob 2012 - Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs NT
- 2012 Gold Coast International Ceramic Art Award - Gold Coast City Gallery, Surfers Paradise QLD
- 2012 Wanampi, Ngintaka and other epic stories - Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs NT
- 2012 Desert Colours - Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs NT



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- 2012 Uwankara Kurunpa Kutju-Tjara - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2012 Kapi Ukalinganyi - Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2012 Ngayuku Ngura, Ngayuku Tjukurpa - South Australian Museum, Adelaide SA
- 2011 We know our land, we keep our land - raft Artspace, Alice Springs NT

Collections

- White Rabbit Collection, Sydney, NSW - 2022
- Muswellbrook Regional Art Gallery, NSW, 2013
- Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin NT, 2013
- The ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences Artworks and Antiquities Collection, Canberra ACT, 2014
- National Museum of Australia, Canberra ACT, 2014
- Queensland Art Gallery / Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, QLD, 2014
- Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, NSW, 2014
- University of Wollongong, NSW, 2014

Bibliography

- 2011 Lee, J. Watiku Workshop. Minyma Wiya! The Journal of Australian Ceramics, November 2011, p 69 - 71
- 2014 DeBoos, J. From Ernabella to Jingdezhen, Craft Arts International, No 90, 2014, p.38-42
- 2014 McKenzie, H. Ernabella in Jingdezhen, Ceramics Monthly, January 2014, p. 18-22
- 2014 O'Callaghan, G. Tjunga Warkarintja (working together) in Jingdezhen, The Journal of Australian Ceramics, April 2014, p 26 - 31
- 2014 O'Callaghan, G. Tjunga (together): Derek Thompson and Tjimpuna Williams in China, Artlink Indigenous: Blackground, Vol 34, No. 2, 2014 page 71-72.
- 2016 Thompson, D with Thompson, A. Working potter 2016, Ceramics Monthly, June 2016, 42-45

Awards

- 2025 Finalist, Environmental Art & Design Prize, Manly Art Gallery
- 2025 Finalist, NATSIAA Telstra Award
- 2019 Artist in Resident, Australian National University School of Art and Design Ceramic Workshop
- 2013 New Work Grant, ATSIAB, Australia Council for the Arts
- 2013 Highly Commended, NATSIAA Telstra Awards, Museum and Art Gallery Northern



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2013 Territory, Darwin
Highly Commended, 42nd Muswellbrook Art Prize